



South Carolina
Department of Transportation

Randall L. Young, P.E.
Chief Engineer for Project Delivery
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December 7, 2017

#E1-26287

Ms. Diana Wood
Surface Transportation Board
Docket No. FD 26095
c/o ICF
9300 Lee Highway
Fairfax, VA 22031

RE: STB Finance Docket No. 26095, Palmetto Railways-Construction and Operation Exemption
Berkeley County, South Carolina; Preliminary Consultation

Dear Ms. Wood:

Thank you for your letter to Secretary of Transportation Christy Hall requesting information regarding how resources under our jurisdiction could be affected by the proposed project. Your letter also requests that we identify any permits and approvals that could be required by the applicant. The following comments are offered in response:

The proposed rail line has the potential to affect the safety and mobility of the traveling public. An encroachment permit would be required from our agency for any proposed work within the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) right-of-way. Depending on the amount of work proposed within SCDOT's right-of-way, it may be beneficial to enter into some sort of governing agreement (e.g. Memorandum of Understanding) that defines the specific process and procedures for review and approval. Through the encroachment permit process, SCDOT would review any proposed plans to ensure that the proposed rail line would not adversely affect the safety and mobility of the travelling public or the Department's ability to maintain and enhance our existing transportation infrastructure. We would be happy to provide more specific comments about how the proposed rail line would affect resources under our jurisdiction once greater details or plans are made available. Please keep us informed about any future stakeholder meetings or field visits.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Chad Long, Director of Environmental Services, at 803-737-1396.

Sincerely,

Randall L. Young, P.E.
Chief Engineer for Project Delivery

RLY:bag

cc: Christy A. Hall, P.E., Secretary of Transportation
Leland Colvin, P.E., Deputy Secretary for Engineering
Ladd Gibson, P.E., Director of Preconstruction

File: Env/CCL
CTS 3042595

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