



Office of the City Manager

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March 12, 2004

The Honorable Vernon A. Williams
Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20423-0001

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings

APR 08 2004

Part of
Public Record

RE: *The Kansas City Southern Railway Company-Petition for Exemption-
Abandonment of Second Street Track In Kansas City, MO*
Docket No. AB-103 (Sub-No. 17X)

Dear Secretary Williams:

The City of Kansas City, Missouri wishes to state its full support for the above-captioned petition filed by The Kansas City Southern Railway Company ("KCSR") whereby KCSR seeks to abandon its Second Street Track located in downtown Kansas City. The City fully supports the abandonment of this track and also supports KCSR's request to be exempted from the rules and requirements relating to offers of financial assistance and public and trail use conditions. KCSR's petition is consistent with the City's long-standing redevelopment efforts for the River Market area of Kansas City.

For many years, the City has supported the redevelopment of this area where KCSR's Second Street track and yard lies. Over time, that area has changed from one of primarily industrial use to a more mixed use, involving residential and retail. Currently, the City has an approved redevelopment plan for this area and removal of the rail facilities makes this redevelopment possible. The continued existence of rail operation in this small area would only hamper our redevelopment efforts while serving no shipper's needs nor any public interest. In fact, since KCSR relocated the rail transloading operation from its yard at the end of the Second Street Track to another part of town, area property owners, businesses, and the public have benefited from the cessation of rail operations through this corridor. The potential for further development opportunities that the proposed abandonment would create for this area is important to the City.

The abandonment would provide additional, on-street parking opportunities in the area and eliminate a number of at-grade rail crossings of city streets, leading to reduced maintenance expense for the City and improvements to public safety. Allowing a continued rail presence, on the other hand, would obstruct the City's redevelopment plans for this area by leaving a rail right-of-way down the middle of Second Street. This would prevent the proper redevelopment of the rail yard property, which is of a size and shape suitable for the type of residential and/or retail mixed-use development that is planned for this area. Furthermore, it would be inconsistent with the City's redevelopment plan to permit another public use or trail use in the middle of the street where the rail right-of-way now lies. As a result, the City also supports KCSR's requests for waiver of the offer of financial assistance, trail use and public use provisions.

Secretary Williams

Page 2

March 12, 2004

In short, the City fully supports KCSR's petition to abandon the rail operations of its Second Street Track in order to allow redevelopment of the property in a manner consistent with the surrounding community and the City's approved redevelopment plan for that area.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wayne A. Cauthen".

Wayne A. Cauthen
City Manager

cc: Parties of Record
Warren K. Erdman
Thomas J. Healey
William A. Mullins