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CITY OF
Travelers Rest
SOUTH CAROLINA

6711 State Park Road
Travelers Rest, SC 29690
864.834.8740 Phone 864.834.7270 Facsimile

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AUG 29 2005
RECEIVED

August 23, 2005

Mr. Vernon A. Williams
Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, NW
Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings

AUG 29 2005

Part of
Public Record

RE: STB Docket Number AB-490-1-X
Greenville County Economic Development Corporation Petition for Exemption for
Partial Discontinuance and Partial Abandonment in Greenville County, SC

Dear Secretary Williams:

The City of Travelers Rest, Greenville County, the City of Greenville, Furman University, Upstate Forever, the Palmetto Conservation Foundation and several other interested organizations and individuals have been working toward the conversion of the old Greenville & Northern Rail Line into a recreational trail. Greenville County, as the current owner of the rail line, has formally requested abandonment of the line in order to rail bank the corridor for interim use as a trail.

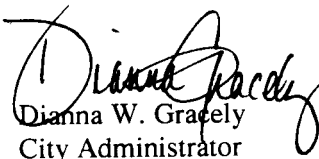
Volunteer groups have, over the past few months, spent countless hours clearing and grubbing the line from downtown Travelers Rest to downtown Greenville. Since this initial clearing was completed, many more people have been able to enjoy this route for recreational use. The popularity is increasing even though no official trail has been constructed or advertised as such.

A recreational trail on this corridor is a critical part of the redevelopment plan for downtown Travelers Rest. The corridor parallels Main Street and actually runs in front of many of the downtown businesses. Long term viability of our city is directly linked to the use of this corridor as a recreational trail.

I cannot overemphasize the impact to our economic future this conversion would have. The City has planned economic development and revitalization efforts with the creation of a hiking/biking/pedestrian trail. While the rail corridor has proven that it does not support a customer base sufficient to make rail service practical, it will have a tremendous impact economically as a recreational trail.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,


Dianna W. Gracely
City Administrator

Enclosure

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on this 23rd day of August, 2005 a copy of the foregoing document was served by United States Mail to:

William A. Mullins
Baker & Miller PLLC
2401 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Suite 300
Washington, D.C.

Steven C. Hawkins
Western Carolina Railway Service Corporation
PO Box 16614
Greenville, SC 29606-7614

Brad Wyche
Upstate Forever
PO Box 2308
Greenville, SC 29602