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Mark E. Allen  
Office of Mayor

## Village of Peoria Heights

INCORPORATED 1889

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The Honorable Vernon A. Williams  
Secretary  
Surface Transportation Board  
395 E Street S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20423-001

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RECEIVED

RE: STB Docket No. AB-878  
Kellar Branch Line, Peoria Heights IL

Dear Secretary Williams:

The Village of Peoria Heights recently conducted two public meetings to provide information regarding the future of the Kellar Branch Line through our Village. The presentation on March 12, 2007 was presented by Pioneer Rail Corporation, with specific information for the possible trolley car line, and also for possible rail service in Peoria Heights. An additional meeting was held on March 28, 2007, and this meeting was presented by the Peoria Park District and Trail Advocates.

A great amount of information was provided, and specific conclusions have been made by the Board of Trustees and me. First, the rail tracks, and in particular the grounds surrounding the tracks, are in deplorable condition. The Village of Peoria Heights wants something positive to be done on the Kellar Branch as quickly as possible; something that will be a draw for economic growth. Second, the Village has not had any true rail freight service for a number of years, and yet our downtown and business areas have continued to grow and thrive. Additionally, we have not received any requests or inquiries from business people for rail service in Peoria Heights.

That is why we felt that the public forum would be the best course to gather information for the possible trolley car line from Peoria, through Peoria Heights, and to the Rock Island Trail. Because the concept was recent, we believed that we had to address it now, so as to not impede any progress that the proposed trail would have. What we have found from the meetings we had are the following:

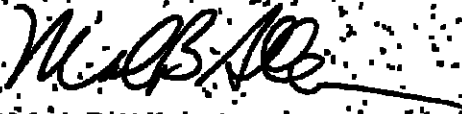
1. We have received very little public support for the rail, whether it be for freight and/or the proposed trolley car route.
2. No local government official or government entity has stepped forward with a positive response to the proposed trolley car route.

3. The proposed trolley car line is not feasible without community support; without the support from the City of Peoria; and without the support of our local government officials. We have not received any signs of this support, as stated, for either the proposed trolley car line and/or freight line.

We did not vote on the rail carrier proposal that the City of Peoria recently did, because we have no freight being delivered in Peoria Heights. We have not had freight delivered for many years, and truthfully, have no interest in any freight deliveries by rail car to the Village in the future.

Again, we request that a decision be made as soon as possible that will allow the Village of Peoria Heights to have an attraction along the Kellar Branch Line, that will be both economic and beautiful in scope. The only option for this to occur is to have the Kellar Branch vacated and converted to a hiking/biking trail.

Sincerely,



Mark B. Allen  
Mayor, Peoria Heights



## **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

**I, Mark B. Allen, certify that the foregoing letter was served on April 5, 2007, by first-class mail, postage prepaid to the following:**

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**Mayor Mark B. Allen**