



Dave Geraci
Project Manager

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March 10, 2003

Surface Transportation Board
Section of Environmental Analysis
1925 "K" Street NW -Suite 534
Washington, DC 20423-0001

RECEIVED
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MAIL
MANAGEMENT
STB

Re: NY 333 – NYC Proposed Abandonment and CSXT Proposed Discontinuance of Service – Northeast Region, Albany Division, Selkirk Subdivision, between Milepost QGW 159.6 and Milepost QGW 165.9, a distance of 6.3 miles between South Amsterdam, Montgomery County and Rotterdam Junction, Schenectady County, New York.
Docket AB-565 (Sub-No. 14X)
Docket AB-55 (Sub-No. 629X)

Gentlemen:

This refers to CSX Transportation's Notice of Exemption filed on February 28, 2003 requesting authority to abandon and discontinue service on its line of railroad as described above.

Your attention is called to the attached letter received from Mr. Michael Kayes of the Montgomery County Planning Board stating "...this area could be used to extend the Erie Canal Trailway (bicycle trail)." Pursuant to this letter, I called Mr. Kayes and informed him that Montgomery County can file for an NITU through the STB.

Sincerely,

Attachment

Copy:

Ms. N.S. Rosenberg, Counsel, CSXT, 500 Water Street – J150, Jacksonville, FL 32202



Montgomery County Planning Board
County Annex Building, 20 Park Street
PO Box 1500
Fonda, NY 12068-1500
(518) 853-8155 Fax (518) 853-8358
Email: mkayes@co.montgomery.ny.us
www.co.montgomery.ny.us

February 18, 2003

Dave Geraci, Project Manager – North Region
CSX Transportation
500 Water Street – J200
Jacksonville, FL 32202

Dear Mr. Geraci:

Please be advised that on February 18, 2003, the Montgomery County Planning Board and the Chairman of the Town of Florida Planning Board reviewed your consultation request (per letter of 1/22/03) and makes the following statement:

“Montgomery County and the Town of Florida current land use patterns designate the railroads described to serve the quarries in the Town of Florida. However long-range land use plans contemplate that if this service is not needed, becomes unprofitable or undesirable and the lines are no longer serviced and the rail abandoned, then this area should be used to extend the Erie Canal Trailway (bicycle trail). The Montgomery County portion of this trail would extend from its current terminus in the Town of Florida southeastward to the Montgomery County-Schenectady County line. Maintaining the entirety of this corridor is important to the long-range plans for the bikeway facility that will, when finished, reach from Albany to Buffalo. Montgomery County looks to a partnership with New York State Parks and Recreation and/or the New York State Canal Corporation for the development of a trail similar to the manner in which the County’s existing 35 miles of trail, were developed and are maintained.”

Please keep us apprised of further development on this matter.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Kayes, Director



Montgomery County Planning Board
County Annex Building, 20 Park Street
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Fonda, NY 12068-1500
(518) 853-8155 Fax (518) 853-8358
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www.co.montgomery.ny.us

February 20, 2003

Dave Geraci, Project Manager – North Region
CSX Transportation
500 Water Street – J200
Jacksonville, FL 32202

Dear Mr. Geraci:

Please be advised that on February 18, 2003, the Montgomery County Planning Board reviewed your preliminary Environmental Report for the abandoned and discontinuation of 6.3 miles of railroad in Montgomery and Schenectady Counties.

The Board, although not the final authority on many topics, reports of findings no incorrect information nor is it aware of any pertinent information missing

Sincerely,


Michael J. Kayes, Director