



Dave Geraci
Manager - Network Rationalization

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October 23, 2007

Surface Transportation Board
Section of Environmental Analysis
395 East Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

RE: CSXT Abandonment
Portsmouth, VA
STB Docket AB-55 (Sub-No. 680X)

Dear STB - SEA:

This refers to CSX Transportation's Notice of Exemption filed on August 7, 2007, requesting authority to abandon its rail line described above. Enclosed please find a copy of a letter dated October 10, 2007 (received October 18, 2007) from Mr. George Brisbin, Manager Transportation and Maritime Planning for the City of Portsmouth stating *"Our position is supportive of the above closure."* Mr. Brisbin further states *"...the right of way corridor is an excellent location to be used as a light rail corridor into our downtown area and one that we wish to preserve for public use."*

Sincerely,

Attachment

Copy: Mr. Steven Armbrust, CSXT, 500 Water Street-J150, Jacksonville, FL, 32202
Mr. Bruce McMahon, CSXT, 500 Water Street-J915, Jacksonville, FL, 32202

THE CITY OF
PORTSMOUTH

October 10, 2007

Mr. Dave Geraci
Manager – Network Rationalization
800 Waters St. J200
Jacksonville, Florida 32202

Re: CSX Transportation Inc.
Proposed Abandonment
STB Docket No. AB-55 (Sub No. 680X)

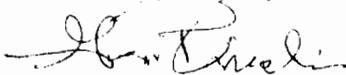
Dear Mr. Geraci,

I apologize for the late response. Our position is supportive of the above closure. I laid our response to one side and overlooked it until now. The default position stated in your letter to us is correct.

On a larger subject, is it possible for a meeting to be arranged so that the future of CSX right-of-way within Portsmouth can be discussed with you or your designee? The City of Portsmouth is developing a master transportation plan and as part of that plan we are defining right-of-way and corridors within the city that can be used for a future (20 year horizon) light rail system linking to the Norfolk Light Rail Project. Light rail projects are difficult at best and early planning expedites the process when all parties are involved.

For example the abandonment referred to in your letter to us, while abandonment as a freight rail line is acceptable to the city, the right-of-way corridor is in an excellent location to be used as a light rail corridor into our downtown area and one that we wish to preserve for public use.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter.



George Brisbin
Manager, Transportation and Maritime Planning
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Department of Planning

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