



The economic engine of Vermont.

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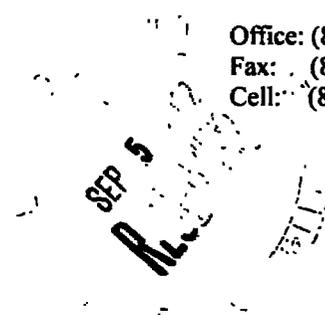
August 29, 2012

Ms. Cynthia T. Brown, Chief
Section of Administration
Office of Proceedings
Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20423

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Office of Proceedings

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RE: STB Finance Docket #35654 Genesee and Wyoming Inc. – Control – Rail America

Dear Ms. Brown,

The Village of Essex Junction has a collaborative and productive relationship with New England Central Railroad (NECR), and their parent company RailAmerica (RA). Therefore we support the transaction that is contained in the STB Finance Docket #35654 by Genesee and Wyoming Inc. provided that the Agreements and understandings we currently have with NECR and RA remain in place and are honored by Genesee and Wyoming Inc.

Projects and proposals that we have with NECR and RA include but are not limited to: (1) The Crescent Connector Road Project including a new at grade rail crossing. (2) a Safety Multi-Use Path from North Street to the Amtrak Station, (3) the Upgrade/Rehab Project for the Amtrak Station.

Development of the Crescent Connector Road will increase traffic efficiency and reduce the number of rail crossings by vehicles, while opening up underutilized land for economic development. The proposed Safety Multi-Use Path will provide a safe and convenient alternative to the rail line ROW increasing safety for all. The Essex Junction Amtrak Station has the highest number of boardings in Vermont. The State is discussing plans to connect Vermont to Montreal by rail. Any rail connection between Vermont and Canada must move through Essex Junction: there are no other passenger rail lines in Vermont that connect with the Canadian system.

The Village's relationship with NECR and RA is extremely important to our municipality and surrounding communities. Forward movement of our current and future initiatives and projects will ensure continuation of this very positive relationship as it transitions to Genesee and Wyoming.

I, David Crawford, declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Further, I certify that I am qualified and authorized to file this pleading. Executed on August 29, 2012.

Sincerely,

David A. Crawford
Village Manager

cc: Brian Searles, VT Secretary of Transportation