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FAX (410) 332-0885

**235785**

April 4, 2014

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

**ENTERED**  
**Office of Proceedings**  
**April 4, 2014**  
**Part of**  
**Public Record**

Re: **Docket No. AB-55 (Sub-No. 734X), CSX Transportation, Inc.—Abandonment Exemption—in Hamilton, Butler County, OH**

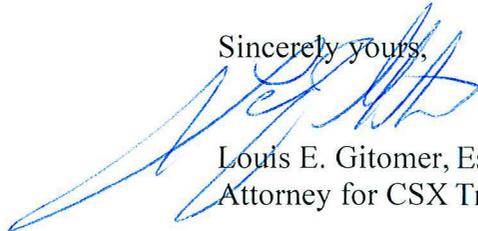
Dear Ms. Brown:

Enclosed are the original and 10 copies of a Verified Notice of Exemption for CSX Transportation, Inc. (“CSXT”) to abandon an approximately 2.96-mile rail line on its Northern Region, Louisville Division, Indianapolis Subdivision between milepost BDA 0.0 and the end of track at approximately milepost BDA 2.96 in Hamilton, Butler County, OH. Also enclosed are a check for the filing fee of \$3,900, and a computer diskette containing the Notice in WORD and pdf format.

Please time and date stamp the additional copy of this letter and Notice and return it in the enclosed prepaid envelope.

Thank you for your assistance. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely yours,



Louis E. Gitomer, Esq.  
Attorney for CSX Transportation, Inc.

Enclosure

**FILED**  
**April 4, 2014**  
**Surface Transportation Board**

**FEE RECEIVED**  
**April 4, 2014**  
**Surface Transportation Board**

BEFORE THE  
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

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Docket No. AB-55 (Sub-No. 734X)

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CSX TRANSPORTATION, INC.—ABANDONMENT EXEMPTION—  
IN HAMILTON, BUTLER COUNTY, OH

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VERIFIED NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

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Steven C. Armbrust, Esq.  
CSX Transportation, Inc.  
500 Water Street  
Jacksonville, FL 32202  
(904) 359-1229

Louis E. Gitomer, Esq.  
Melanie B. Yasbin, Esq.  
Law Offices of Louis E. Gitomer, LLC  
600 Baltimore Avenue, Suite 301  
Towson, MD 21204  
(410) 296-2250  
Lou@lgraillaw.com

Attorneys for: CSX TRANSPORTATION,  
INC.

Dated: April 4, 2014

BEFORE THE  
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

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Docket No. AB-55 (Sub-No. 734X)

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CSX TRANSPORTATION, INC.—ABANDONMENT EXEMPTION—  
IN HAMILTON, BUTLER COUNTY, OH

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VERIFIED NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

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CSX Transportation, Inc. (“CSXT”) files this Verified Notice of Exemption pursuant to the class exemption at 49 C.F.R. § 1152.50 for CSXT to abandon an approximately 2.96-mile rail line on its Northern Region, Louisville Division, Indianapolis Subdivision between milepost BDA 0.0 and the end of track at approximately milepost BDA 2.96 in Hamilton, Butler County, OH (the “Line”). After receiving abandonment authority, CSXT plans to abandon the Line, salvage the track and materials and sell or lease the real estate. No local rail traffic has moved over the Line during the past two years. Any overhead traffic on the Line can be and has been rerouted.

Based on information in the possession of CSXT, the Line does not contain federally granted rights-of-way. Any documentation in the railroad’s possession will be made available promptly to those requesting it.

1. Proposed consummation date. The proposed consummation date is May 24, 2014.

2. Certification required by 49 C.F.R. § 1152.50(b). *See* Exhibit A.
3. Information required by 49 C.F.R. § 1152.22(a)(1) through (4), (7), and (8), and (e)(4).

(a) General.

(1) Exact name of applicant. CSX Transportation, Inc.

(2) Whether applicant is a common carrier by railroad subject to 49 U.S.C.

Subtitle IV, Chapter 105. CSXT is a common carrier by railroad subject to 49 U.S.C. Subtitle IV, Chapter 105.

(3) Relief sought. CSXT seeks to use the class exemption at 49 C.F.R. § 1152.50 to abandon an approximately 2.96-mile rail line on its Northern Region, Louisville Division, Indianapolis Subdivision between milepost BDA 0.0 and the end of track at approximately milepost BDA 2.96 in Hamilton, Butler County, OH. The Hamilton Station is at FSAC 74023 and OPSL 44640.

(4) Map. *See* Exhibit B.

(7) Name, title, and address of representative of applicant to whom correspondence should be sent. Louis E. Gitomer, Law Offices of Louis E. Gitomer, LLC, 600 Baltimore Avenue, Suite 301, Towson, MD 21204, (410) 296-2250, Lou@lgrailaw.com.

(8) List of all United States Postal Service ZIP Codes that the line proposed for abandonment traverses. The Line traverses U.S. Postal ZIP Code 45013.

(e) Rural and community impact.

(4) Statement of whether the properties proposed to be abandoned are appropriate for use for other public purposes, including roads and highways, other forms of mass transportation, conservation, energy production or transmission, or recreation. If the applicant is

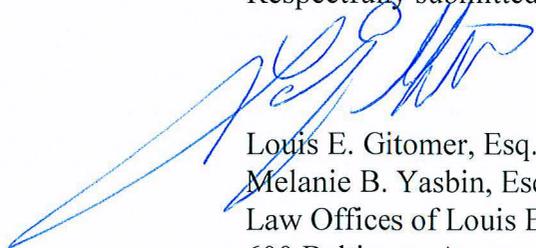
aware of any restriction on the title to the property, including any reversionary interest, which would affect the transfer of title or the use of property for other than rail purposes, this shall be disclosed.

The Line may be suitable for other public purposes or trail use, but may be subject to reversionary interests.

4. The level of labor protection. The interests of any railroad employees who may be adversely affected by the proposed abandonment will be adequately protected by the labor protective conditions in *Oregon Short Line R. Co. –Abandonment–Goshen*, 360 I.C.C. 91 (1979).
5. Certification. Certificates of compliance with the notice requirements of 49 C.F.R. §§ 1152.50(d)(1) and 1105.11 are attached as Exhibit C.
6. Environmental Report. See Exhibit D.
7. Historic Report. See Exhibit E.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven C. Armbrust, Esq.  
CSX Transportation, Inc.  
500 Water Street  
Jacksonville, FL 32202  
(904) 359-1229



Louis E. Gitomer, Esq.  
Melanie B. Yasbin, Esq.  
Law Offices of Louis E. Gitomer  
600 Baltimore Avenue, Suite 301  
Towson, MD 21204  
(410) 296-2250  
Lou@lgraillaw.com

Attorneys for: CSX TRANSPORTATION,  
INC.

Dated: April 4, 2014

# **EXHIBIT A-VERIFICATION AND CERTIFICATION**

**VERIFICATION AND CERTIFICATION THAT RAIL LINE MEETS  
CRITERIA OF 49 C.F.R. SECTION 1152.50(b)**

STATE OF FLORIDA                    )  
  )  
COUNTY OF DUVAL                 )        ss.

I, William Scaggs state that I am Manager of Cost and Economic Analysis for CSX Transportation, Inc. (“CSXT”); that I am authorized to make this verification; and that I have read the foregoing Notice of Exemption and know the facts asserted therein are true and accurate as stated, to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief.

I hereby certify that no freight traffic has moved over CSXT’s 2.96 mile rail line on its Northern Region, Louisville Division, Indianapolis Subdivision, between Railroad Milepost BDA 0.0 and Railroad Milepost BDA 2.96 at the end of the track in Hamilton, Butler County, Ohio, for two years prior to the date hereof, and that any overhead freight traffic on the line can be rerouted over other lines. Further, no formal complaint filed by a user of rail service on the line (or a State or local government entity acting on behalf of such user) regarding cessation of service over the line either is pending with the Surface Transportation Board or any U.S. District Court or has been decided in favor of a complainant within the two-year period. The foregoing certification is made on behalf of CSXT by the undersigned after due and careful investigation of the matters herein certified and based on the best of the knowledge, information, and belief of the undersigned.

  
William Scaggs

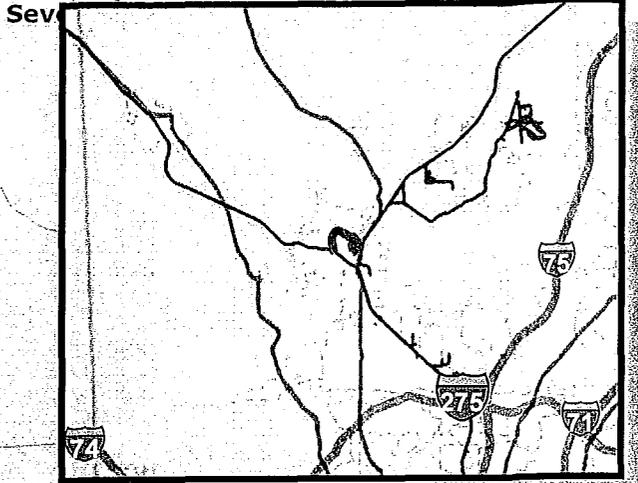
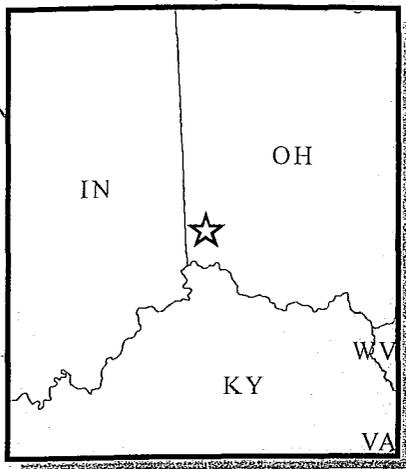
SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO before me this 4<sup>th</sup> day of April 2014.



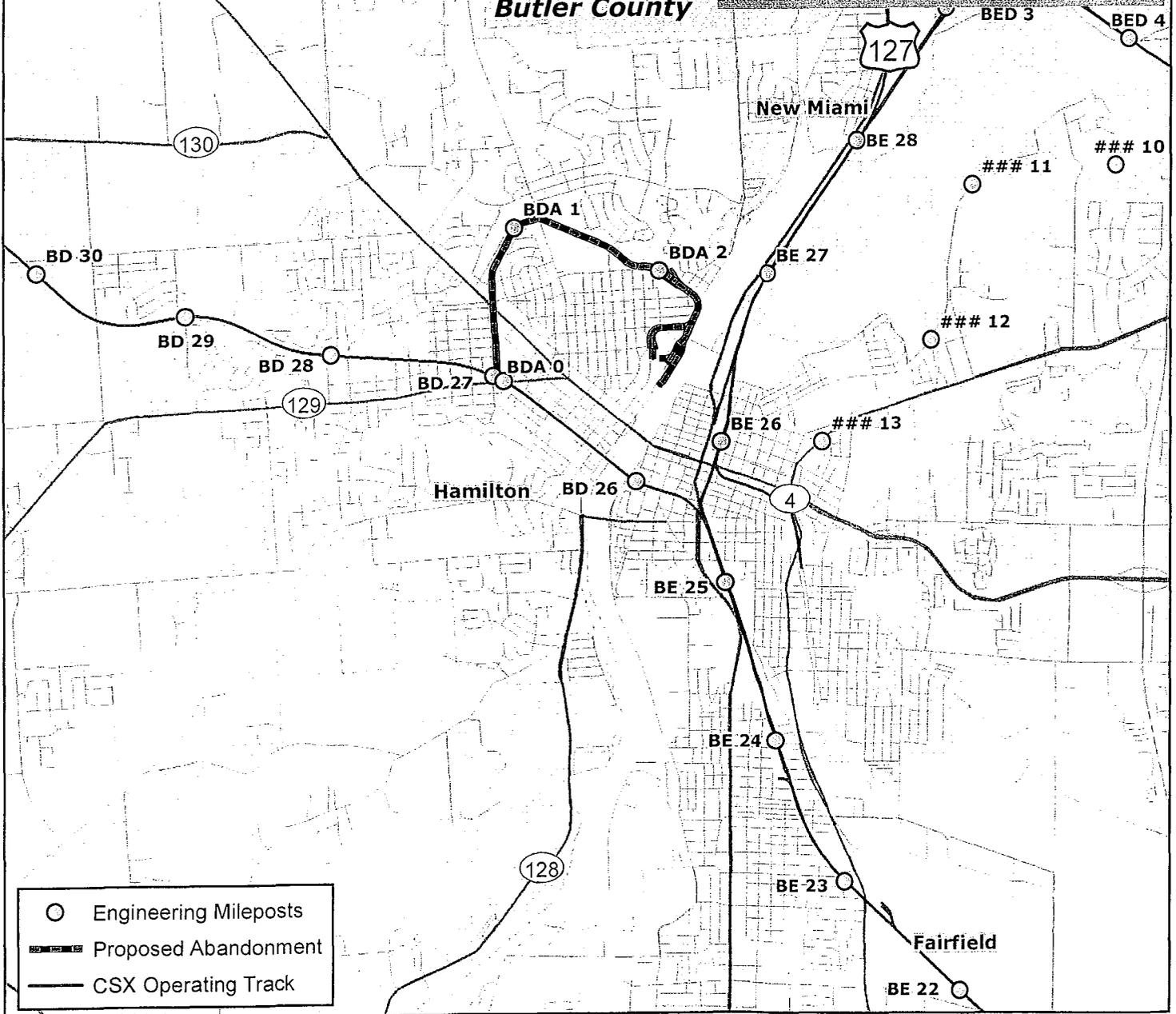
My Commission Expires: 9-11-16

  
Notary Public

## **EXHIBIT B-MAP**



**Butler County**

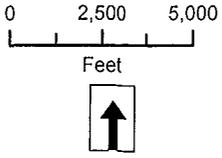


○ Engineering Mileposts  
 Proposed Abandonment  
 CSX Operating Track



**CSX Transportation, Inc.**  
**Proposed Abandonment**  
**Hamilton, OH**  
 MP BDA 0.0 to BDA 2.96  
 Total Distance of approx. 2.96 Miles  
 Hamilton, Butler County, OH  
 STB Docket No. AB 55 (Sub-No. 734X)

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## **EXHIBIT C-CERTIFICATES OF SERVICE AND PUBLICATION**

Pursuant to 49 C.F.R. § 1152.50 (d) (1), the undersigned hereby certifies that notice of the proposed abandonment in Docket No. AB-55 (Sub-No. 734X) was mailed via first class mail on March 25, 2014, to the following parties:

### State Public Service Commission

Ohio Rail Development Commission  
1980 West Broadway Street  
Columbus, OH 43223

### Military Traffic Management Command

Headquarters  
Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command  
Transportation Engineering Agency  
ATTN: SDTE-SA (Railroads for National Defense)  
1 Soldier Way, Building 1900W  
Scott AFB, IL 62225

### National Park Service

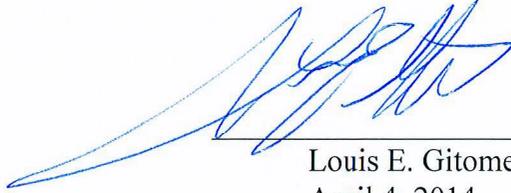
Mr. Rick Potts  
Chief, Conservation and Outdoor Recreation Division  
Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program National Park Service  
1849 C Street, N.W. (Org Code 2220)  
Washington, DC 20240

### National Park Service

U.S. Department of Interior  
National Park Service  
Land Resources Division  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20240

U.S. Department of Agriculture

U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Chief of the Forest Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20250-0003

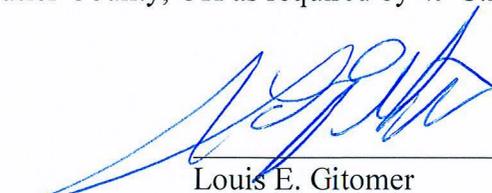


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Louis E. Gitomer  
April 4, 2014

## CERTIFICATE OF PUBLICATION

The undersigned hereby certifies that notice of the proposed abandonment in Docket No. AB-55 (Sub-No. 734X) in the following form was advertised on April 3, 2014 in The Enquirer, a newspaper of general circulation in Butler County, OH as required by 49 C.F.R. § 1105.7(c) and .12.



Louis E. Gitomer  
April 4, 2014

### Notice of Intent To Abandon

CSX Transportation, Inc. (“CSXT”) gives notice that on or about April 4, 2014, it intends to file with the Surface Transportation Board, Washington, DC 20423, a notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1152 Subpart F—Exempt Abandonments permitting the abandonment of an approximately 2.96 miles of railroad line on the Hamilton Beltline, Northern Region, Baltimore Division, Louisville Division, Indianapolis Subdivision, between milepost BDA 0.0 and the end of track at approximately milepost BDA 2.96, which traverses United States Postal Service ZIP Code 45013 in Hamilton, Butler County, OH (the “Line”). The proceeding has been docketed as No. AB-55 (Sub-No. 734X).

The Board’s Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) will generally prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA), which will normally be available 25 days after the filing of the notice of exemption. Comments on environmental and energy matters should be filed no later than 15 days after the EA becomes available to the public and will be addressed in a Board decision. Interested persons may obtain a copy of the EA or make inquiries regarding environmental matters by writing to the OEA, Surface Transportation Board, Washington, DC 20423 or by calling that office at (202) 245-0295.

Appropriate offers of financial assistance to continue rail service can be filed with the Board. Requests for environmental conditions, public use conditions, or rail banking/trails use also can be filed with the Board. An original and 10 copies of any pleading that raises matters other than environmental issues (such as trails use, public use, and offers of financial assistance) must be filed directly with the Board’s Section of Administration, Office of Proceedings, 395 E Street, SW, Washington, DC 20423–0001 [See 49 CFR 1104.1(a) and 1104.3(a)], and one copy must be served on applicant’s representative [See 49 CFR 1104.12(a)]. Questions regarding offers of financial assistance, public use or trails use may be directed to the Board’s Office of Public Assistance, Governmental Affairs, and Compliance at (202) 245-0238. Copies of any comments or requests for conditions should be served on the applicant’s representative: Louis E. Gitomer, 600 Baltimore Avenue, Suite 301, Towson, MD 21204, (410)296-2250, Lou@lgrailaw.com.

## **EXHIBIT D– ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT**

## ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

Pursuant to the requirements of 49 C.F.R. § 1105.7, the undersigned hereby certifies that a copy of the Environmental Report in Docket No. AB-55 (Sub-No. 734X) was mailed via first class mail on February 21, 2014 to the following parties:

City of Hamilton Ohio  
Economic Development  
345 High Street  
Hamilton, OH 45011

United States Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Ohio State Office  
200 North High Street, Room 522  
Columbus, OH 43215

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Great Lakes and Ohio River Division  
550 Main Street, room 10524  
Cincinnati, OH 45202-3222

Ohio Department of Natural Resources  
2045 Morse Road  
Columbus, OH 43329-6693

National Park Service  
Midwest Region Office  
601 Riverfront Drive  
Omaha, NE 68102-4226

National Geodetic Survey  
Simon.Monroe@noaa.gov

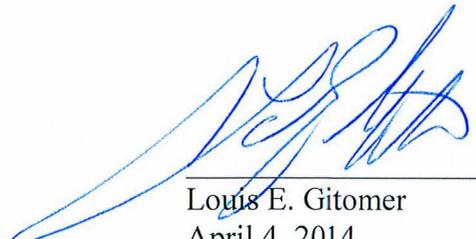
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
4625 Morse Road, Suite 104  
Columbus, OH 43230-8355

Environmental Protection Agency  
Region 5  
Ralph Metcalfe Federal Building  
77 West Jackson Boulevard  
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

Ohio Department of Transportation  
Ohio Rail Development Commission  
1980 W. Broad Street  
Columbus, OH 43223

Butler County Development Department  
130 High Street  
Hamilton, OH 45011

Ohio Environmental Protection Agency  
Southwest District  
401 East Fifth Street  
Dayton, OH 45402



Louis E. Gitomer  
April 4, 2014

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# ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

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**CSX TRANSPORTATION, INC.  
Hamilton, Butler County Ohio  
Docket AB-55 (Sub-No. 734X)**

The following information is provided in accordance with 49 C.F.R. Section 1105.7:

## **(1) PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES**

**Describe the proposed action, including commodities transported, the planned disposition (if any) of any rail line and other structures that may be involved, and any possible changes in current operations or maintenance practices. Also describe any reasonable alternatives to the proposed action. Include a readable, detailed map and drawings clearly delineating the project.**

CSXT proposes to abandon approximately 2.96 miles of its rail line between from Railroad Milepost BDA 0.00 (near Millville Ave) to Railroad Milepost BDA 2.96 at the end of track (near N B Street), known as the Hamilton Belt Line, in Hamilton, Butler County, Ohio.

The above referenced 2.96 -mile line has not generated any originating or terminating traffic in over two (2) years.

Abandonment of this line will result in the removal of the rail, crossties, and possibly the upper layer of ballast. CSXT does not intend to disturb any sub grade or sub grade structures. Finally, the operations and maintenance of this line will cease.

The only alternative would be not to abandon and to pass the opportunity costs of retaining the line to all other CSXT customers. This would not be a prudent utilization of carrier resources.

A map which delineates the proposed project is attached. (See Attachment 1)

Further attached is a distribution list of all parties who have received a copy of this report. (See Attachment 2)

## **(2) TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM**

**Describe the effects of the proposed action on regional or local transportation systems and patterns. Estimate the amount of traffic (passenger or freight) that will be diverted to other transportation systems or modes as a result of the proposed action.**

There is no passenger or freight traffic on this line. Since there has not been any traffic on this line in over two (2) years, there will be no effect on existing regional or local transportation systems or patterns.

### **(3) LAND USE**

- (i) **Based on consultation with local and/or regional planning agencies and/or a review of the official planning documents prepared by such agencies, state whether the proposed action is consistent with existing land use plans. Describe any inconsistencies.**

Applicant has not received a response to its January 24, 2014 letter to Ohio Department of Transportation Ohio Rail Development Commission or the City requesting information regarding this statement. (See Attachments 3)

Based on the fact that the line has not generated any traffic in over 2 years, Applicant believes the proposed action is not inconsistent with local land use plans.

Applicant received a response dated February 25, 2014 from the Office of the City Manager, City of Hamilton, Ohio stating *"The City of Hamilton would like to express its support for CSX's effort to abandon the corridor of track....."* (See Attachment 4)

Applicant received a response dated January 27, 2014 from Butler County Department of Development stating *"While Butler County does not hold any planning authority over the City of Hamilton, to my knowledge the proposed abandonment would not be inconsistent with any of the current land use plans of Butler County, Ohio"* (See Attachment 5)

- (ii) **Based on consultation with the U. S. Soil Conservation Service, state the effect of the proposed action on any prime agricultural land.**

Applicant received a response dated February 3, 2014 from Steven Baker of the USDA-NRCS stating *"I have reviewed your request, and I foresee no impact on prime farmland."* (See

Attachment 6)

- (iii) **If the action affects land or water uses within a designated coastal zone, include the coastal zone information required by 1105.9.**

Applicant has not received a response to its January 24, 2014 inquiry to the Ohio Department Natural Resources requesting information regarding this statement. (See Attachment 7)

Applicant feels that the simple removal or repair of track material should not have an adverse impact on any coastal zone, land or water uses.

- (iv) **If the proposed action is an abandonment, state whether or not the right of way is suitable for alternative public use under 49 U.S.C. 10906 and explain why.**

The properties proposed to be abandoned may be suitable for other public purposes, but may be subject to reversionary interests that may affect transfer of title for other than rail purposes.

**(4) ENERGY**

- (i) **Describe the effect of the proposed action on transportation of energy resources.**

The proposed action will have no effect on the movement and/or recovery of energy resources.

- (ii) **Describe the effect of the proposed action on recyclable commodities.**

The proposed action will have no effect on the movement and/or recovery of recyclable commodities.

- (iii) **State whether the proposed action will result in an increase or decrease in overall energy efficiency and explain why.**

The proposed action will not result in an increase or decrease in overall energy efficiency.

- (iv) **If the proposed action will cause diversions from rail to motor carriage of more than: (A) 1,000 rail carloads a year; or (B) an average of 50 rail carloads per mile per year for any part of the affected line, quantify the resulting net change in energy consumption and show the data and methodology used to arrive at the figure given.**

There will be no diversion of rail traffic to motor carriage.

**(5) AIR**

- (i) If the proposed action will result in either: (A) an increase in rail traffic of at least 100% (measured in gross ton miles annually) or an increase of at least eight trains a day on any segment of rail line affected by the proposal, or (B) an increase in rail yard activity of at least 100% (measured by carload activity), or (C) an average increase in truck traffic of more than 10% of the average daily traffic or 50 vehicles a day on any affected road segment, quantify the anticipated effect on air emissions.

The above thresholds will not be exceeded.

- (ii) If the proposed action affects a class I or non-attainment area under the Clean Air Act; and will it result in either: (A) an increase in rail traffic of a least 50% (measured in gross ton miles annually) or an increase of at least three trains a day on any segment of rail line, or (B) an increase in rail yard activity of a least 20% (measured by carload activity), or (C) an average increase in truck traffic of more than 10% of the average daily traffic or 50 vehicles a day on a given road segment, then state whether any expected increased emissions are within the parameters established by the State Implementation Plan.

The above thresholds will not be exceeded.

- (iii) If transportation of ozone depleting materials (such as nitrogen oxide and freon) is contemplated, identify: the materials and quantity, the frequency of service; safety practices (including any speed restriction); the applicant's safety record (to the extent available) on derailments, accidents and spills; contingency plans to deal with accidental spills; and the likelihood of an accidental release of ozone depleting materials in the event of a collision or derailment.

Not applicable.

**(6) NOISE**

If any of the thresholds identified in item (5)(i) of this section are surpassed, state whether the proposed action will cause: (i) an incremental increase in noise levels of three decibels Ldn or more, or (ii) an increase to a noise level of 65 decibels Ldn or greater. If so, identify sensitive receptors (e.g., schools, libraries, hospitals, residences, retirement communities, and nursing homes) in the project area, and quantify the noise increase for these receptors if the thresholds are surpassed.

The above thresholds will not be exceeded.

**(7) SAFETY**

- (i) **Describe any effects of the proposed action on public health and safety (including vehicle delay time at railroad grade crossings).**

Applicant believes that the abandonment will result in improvement to public safety by the elimination of seven (7) public, at-grade road crossings and three (3) private, at-grade road crossings.

- (ii) **If hazardous materials are expected to be transported, identify: the materials and quantity; the frequency of service; whether chemicals are being transported that, if mixed, could react to form more hazardous compounds; safety practices (including any speed restrictions); the applicant's safety record (to the extent available) on derailments, accidents and hazardous spills; the contingency plans to deal with accidental spills; and the likelihood of an accidental release of hazardous materials.**

Not applicable.

- (iii) **If there are any known hazardous waste sites or sites where there have been known hazardous material spills on the right of way, identify the location of those sites and the types of hazardous materials involved.**

Applicant's records do not indicate any known hazardous material spills or hazardous waste sites.

**(8) BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES**

- (i) **Based on consultation with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, state whether the proposed action is likely to adversely affect endangered or threatened species or areas designated as a critical habitat, and if so, describe the effects.**

Applicant received a response dated February 14, 2014 from U.S. Fish & Wildlife Midwest Regional Office stating *"Due to the project, type, size, and location, we do not anticipate adverse effects to federally endangered, threatened, proposed, or candidate species."*

- (ii) **State whether wildlife sanctuaries or refuges, National or State parks or**

**forests will be affected, and describe any effects.**

Applicant received a response dated February 14, 2014 from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Midwest Regional Office stating *"We have received your recent correspondence requesting information about the subject proposal. There are no Federal wilderness areas, wildlife refuges or designated critical habitat within the vicinity of the project area."* (See Attachment 8)

Based upon Applicant's review of the area, the line is not within any wildlife sanctuaries or refuges, National or State parks or forests.

**(9) WATER**

- (i) **Based on consultation with State water quality officials, state whether the proposed action is consistent with applicable Federal, State or local water quality standards. Describe any inconsistencies.**

Applicant received a response dated February 3, 2014 from Ohio EPA – Division of Surface Water stating *"the project does not intend to disturb ground, and will not otherwise impact streams or wetlands in any way. Therefore, permits would not be required from Ohio EPA."* (See Attachment 9)

- (ii) **Based on consultation with the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, state whether permits under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344) are required for the proposed action and whether any designated wetlands or 100-year flood plains will be affected. Describe the effects.**

Applicant has received a response dated February 26, 2014 inquiry to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Cincinnati, Ohio stating *"Any discharge of fill material into Two Mile Creek or the Great Miami River, would require notification to this office and a permit prior to completing the work"*. (See Attachment 10)

Applicant is not aware of any designated wetlands or 100-year flood plains within the proposed project.

Upon receiving abandonment authority, removal of material will be accomplished by use of the right of way for access, along with existing public and private crossings, and no new access roads are contemplated. Applicant does not intend to disturb any of the underlying road-bed or perform any activities that would cause

sedimentation or erosion of the soil, and does not anticipate any dredging or use of fill in the removal of the track material. The crossties and/or other debris will be transported away from the rail line and will not be discarded along the right of way nor be placed or left in streams or wetlands, or along the banks of such waterways. Also, during track removal, appropriate measures will be implemented to prevent or control spills from fuels, lubricants or any other pollutant materials from entering any waterways. Based upon this course of action, Applicant does not believe a permit under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act will be required.

- (iii) **State whether permits under Section 402 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1342) are required for the proposed action. (Applicants should contact the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency or the state environmental protection or equivalent agency if they are unsure whether such permits are required).**

Applicant has not received a response to its January 24, 2014 inquiry to the U.S. Region 5 EPA Office in Chicago, Illinois requesting information regarding this statement. (See Attachment 11)

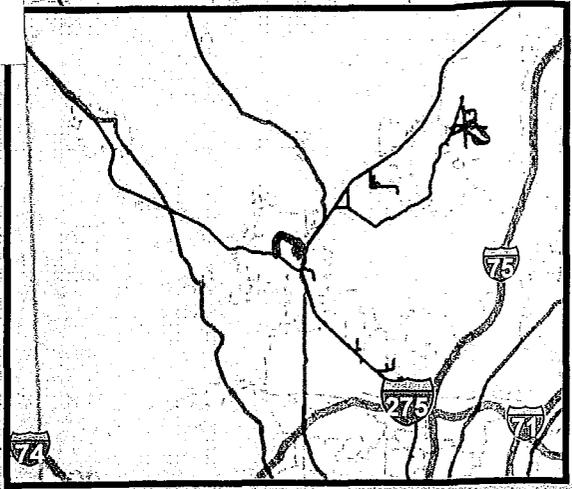
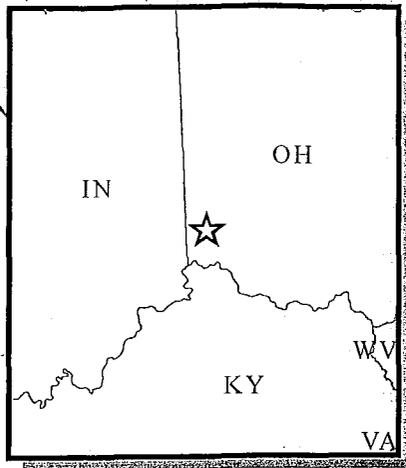
Based upon the course of action described in Section 9 (ii), Applicant does not believe a permit under Section 402 of the Clean Water Act will be required.

## **10. MITIGATION**

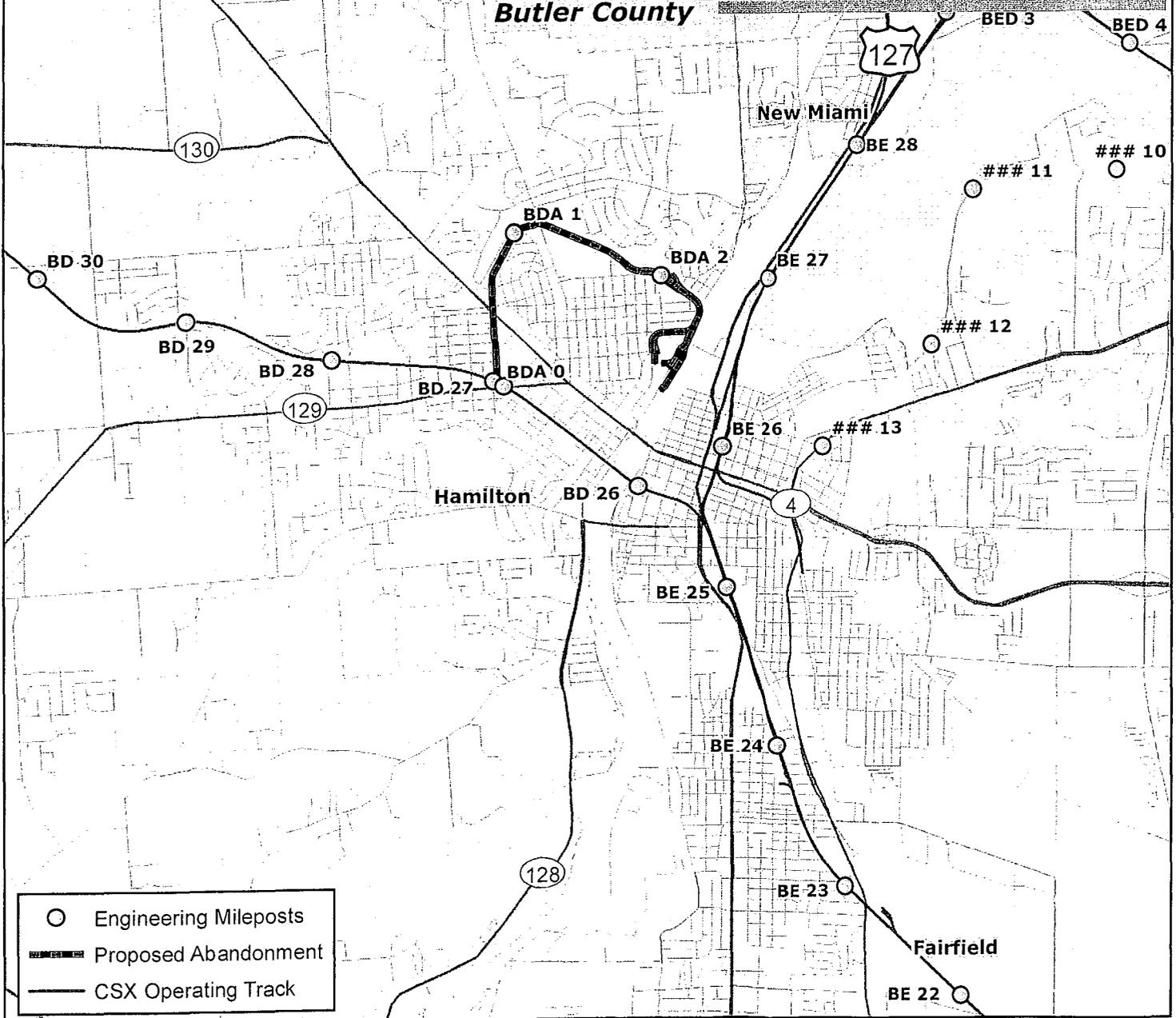
**Describe any actions that are proposed to mitigate adverse environmental impacts, indicating why the proposed mitigation is appropriate.**

Applicant does not believe there will be any adverse environmental impacts in the project area as a result of this abandonment. However, Applicant will comply with reasonable State and Federal regulations and obtain any necessary permits required.

# Attachment 1



## Butler County

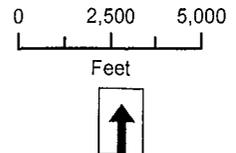


|  |                       |
|--|-----------------------|
|  | Engineering Mileposts |
|  | Proposed Abandonment  |
|  | CSX Operating Track   |



CSX Real Property, Inc.

**CSX Transportation, Inc.**  
**Proposed Abandonment**  
**Hamilton, OH**  
 MP BDA 0.0 to BDA 2.96  
 Total Distance of approx. 2.96 Miles  
 Hamilton, Butler County, OH  
 STB Docket No. AB 55 (Sub-No. 734X)



# Attachment 2

CSXT Abandonment External Distribution List  
Butler County  
Hamilton, Ohio

City of Hamilton Ohio  
Economic Development  
345 High Street  
Hamilton, OH 45011

Ohio Department of Transportation  
Ohio Rail Development Commission  
1980 W. Broad Street  
Columbus, OH 43223

U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Ohio State Office  
200 North High Street, Room 522  
Columbus, OH 43215

U.S. EPA  
Region 5  
Ralph Metcalfe Federal Bldg  
77 West Jackson Blvd  
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

U.S. Corps of Engineers  
Great Lakes & Ohio River Division  
550 Main St. Room 10524  
Cincinnati, OH 45202-3222

National Park Service  
Midwest Regional Office  
601 Riverfront Drive  
Omaha, NE 68102-4226

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
4625 Morse Road  
Suite 104  
Columbus, Ohio 43230-8355

Butler County Department of Development  
130 High Street  
Hamilton, OH 45011

Ohio Department of Natural Resources  
2045 Morse Road  
Columbus, Ohio 43329-6693

Ohio Environmental Protection Agency  
Southwest District  
401 East Fifth Street  
Dayton, OH 45402



Jo Ann Burroughs  
Manager Network Services

500 Water Street – J-315  
Jacksonville, FL 32202  
Phone: (904) 359-1247  
E-Mail: Jo\_Burroughs@csx.com

January 24, 2014

Ohio Department of Transportation  
Ohio Rail Development Commission  
1980 W. Broad Street  
Columbus, OH 43223

Dear Sir/Madam:

Please be advised that CSX Transportation, Inc. (CSXT) is considering to file with the Surface Transportation Board (STB) a Notice of Exemption seeking authority to abandon common carrier obligation in the Northern Region, Louisville Division, Indianapolis Subdivision, from Railroad Milepost BDA 0.0 to the end of track located at approximately Railroad Milepost BDA 2.96 also known as the Hamilton Beltline. The distance is approximately 2.96 miles in Hamilton, Butler County, Ohio as depicted on the attached map. STB Docket number AB 55 (Sub-No. 734X).

The purpose of the proposed action is to abandon, discontinue service, salvage the track and improvements and subsequently lease or sell the property. There has been no traffic on the line for at least two (2) years. The Properties Group and the City of Hamilton would like to close the seven (7) public road crossings and three (3) private road crossings on this line. No new rail-oriented business is expected to develop. The Ohio DOT has expressed interest in acquiring the property for a potential trail.

This action requires Surface Transportation Board approval and Federal Regulations [49 C.F.R. 1105.7(3) (i)] require that CSXT develop a response to the following statement:

*“Based on consultation with local and/or regional planning agencies and/or a review of the official planning documents prepared by such agencies, please state whether the proposed action is consistent with existing land use plans. Please describe any inconsistencies.”*



500 Water Street – J-315  
Jacksonville, FL 32202  
Phone: (904) 359-1247  
E-Mail: Jo\_Burroughs@csx.com

Jo Ann Burroughs  
Manager Network Services

CSXT would appreciate your comments regarding current and future land use in relationship to the Line. As further information, CSXT will provide a preliminary environmental report in the coming weeks which will outline the scope of the proposed salvage activity and include any comments received from your office. This environmental report can be sent electronically by email or through the United States Postal Service (USPS). Please email Jo\_Burroughs@csx.com if you wish to receive the report electronically. If we do not receive notification, it will be mailed via USPS.

Enclosed is a distribution list of all parties that have been copied on the proposed action. If you have any questions, please feel free to call or email me.

Sincerely,

Jo Ann Burroughs

Enclosures (2)

# Attachment 4



Founded 1791

## Office of the City Manager

City of Hamilton, Ohio  
One Renaissance Center  
345 High Street, 7th Floor  
Hamilton, Ohio 45011  
Telephone 513 785-7002  
FAX 513 785-7010  
[www.hamilton-city.org](http://www.hamilton-city.org)

February 25, 2014

Ms. Jo Ann Burroughs  
500 Water Street -- J 315  
Jacksonville FL 32202

RE: CSX Transportation, Inc. - Proposed Abandonment - STB Docket No. AB-55 (Sub No. 734X)

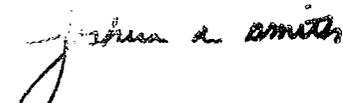
Dear Ms. Burroughs:

The City of Hamilton has received your letter requesting comments related to the proposed abandonment - STB Docket No. AB-55 (Sub No. 734X).

The City of Hamilton would like to express its support for CSX's effort to abandon the corridor of track located at approximately Railroad Milepost BDA 2.96 (also known as the Hamilton Beltline) consisting of 11 street crossings, and a distance of approximately 2.96 miles in Hamilton, Butler County, Ohio. Additionally, the City has expressed to CSX officials its interest in acquiring the property for use as a pedestrian/bike trail.

If you require clarification regarding our position please contact my office by telephone at (513) 785-7002.

Sincerely,

  
Joshua Smith  
City Manager

# Attachment 5

**Burroughs, JoAnn**

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**From:** Zeb Acuff <AcuffPZ@butlercountyohio.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 27, 2014 1:59 PM  
**To:** Burroughs, JoAnn  
**Subject:** Rail Abandonment in Hamilton, Ohio - STB Docket No. AB 55 (Sub-No. 734X)

Ms. Burroughs,

On behalf of the Butler County Department of Development, I received your letter regarding the proposed abandonment of the Hamilton Beltline (BDA 0.0–BDA 2.96) right-of-way in Hamilton, Ohio.

While Butler County does not hold any planning authority over the City of Hamilton, to my knowledge the proposed abandonment would not be inconsistent with any of the current land use plans of Butler County, Ohio.

On a personal note, I am encouraged to see that the state has expressed interest in converting the rail corridor to a recreational trail. I fully support efforts to increase opportunities for physical activity and non-motorized transportation along our nation's rail corridors, and I am excited at the prospect of being able to walk this trail myself in the future.

Please let me know if you require anything else of me, or if I can be of assistance with railbanking or trail conversion projects elsewhere in the region.

Thanks

Zeb

**Peter Z. "Zeb" Acuff, AICP**  
Planning Administrator  
Butler County Department of Development  
130 High Street, 6th Floor  
Hamilton OH 45011  
(p) 513-887-3411  
(e) [acuffpz@butlercountyohio.org](mailto:acuffpz@butlercountyohio.org)

## Attachment 6

**Burroughs, JoAnn**

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**From:** Baker, Steven - NRCS, Columbus, OH <Steven.Baker@oh.usda.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 03, 2014 4:17 PM  
**To:** Burroughs, JoAnn  
**Subject:** Abandonment of Common Carrier Obligation Hamilton Beltline (Hamilton OH)  
**Attachments:** CSX\_RailAbandon\_Hamilton.pdf; Steve Baker.vcf

Good Afternoon Jo,

I have reviewed your request, and I foresee no impact on prime farmland. I did attach a Web Soil Survey report that covers roughly the area you seek to abandon, and less than 12% of the area I outlined are classed as prime farmland.

The vast majority of the rail line falls within developed areas (tint overprint on USGS maps or soil map units that contain urban land as a component) with a few spots diverging into prime farmland units, but that could be a simple scale issue. I didn't have a need to be very exact with my mapping to get an idea of what this area was like.

The areas that are listed as prime farmland, (mostly Lanier fine sandy loam) are shown on pages 26-29 on the attached report.

After reviewing 49 CFR 1105.7 (3) (ii), I believe I have covered my obligation but if you need more info, do not hesitate to contact me.

Thanks,

**Steve Baker**

USDA-NRCS  
State Soil Scientist

614.255.2483 Work  
614.940.8227 Mobile  
steven.baker@oh.usda.gov  
200 North High St.  
Columbus, OH 43215

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## Attachment 7

500 Water Street – J-315  
Jacksonville, FL 32202  
Phone: (904) 359-1247  
E-Mail: Jo\_Burroughs@csx.com

Jo Ann Burroughs  
Manager Network Services

January 24, 2014

Ohio Department of Natural Resources  
2045 Morse Road  
Columbus, Ohio 43329-6693

Dear Sir/Madam:

Please be advised that CSX Transportation, Inc. (CSXT) is considering to file with the Surface Transportation Board (STB) a Notice of Exemption seeking authority to abandon common carrier obligation in the Northern Region, Louisville Division, Indianapolis Subdivision, from Railroad Milepost BDA 0.0 to the end of track located at approximately Railroad Milepost BDA 2.96 also known as the Hamilton Beltline. The distance is approximately 2.96 miles in Hamilton, Butler County, Ohio as depicted on the attached map. STB Docket number AB 55 (Sub-No. 734X).

The purpose of the proposed action is to abandon, discontinue service, salvage the track and improvements and subsequently lease or sell the property. There has been no traffic on the line for at least two (2) years. The Properties Group and the City of Hamilton would like to close the seven (7) public road crossings and three (3) private road crossings on this line. No new rail-oriented business is expected to develop. The Ohio DOT has expressed interest in acquiring the property for a potential trail.

This action requires Surface Transportation Board approval and Federal Regulations 49 C.F.R. 1105.7 (9) (i) and (iii) require that CSXT develop a response to the following statements:

(i) *“Based on consultation with State Water quality officials, state whether the proposed action is consistent with applicable Federal, State or local water quality standards. Describe any inconsistencies.”*

(iii) *“State whether permits under Section 402 of the Clean Water Act 33 U.S.C. 1342 are required for the proposed action.”*



500 Water Street – J-315  
Jacksonville, FL 32202  
Phone: (904) 359-1247  
E-Mail: Jo\_Burroughs@csx.com

Jo Ann Burroughs  
Manager Network Services

There are no refueling or maintenance areas within the project area. The removal of CSXT's rail material will be accomplished by use of the right of way for access, along with existing public and private crossings, and no new access roads are contemplated. CSXT does not intend to disturb any of the underlying roadbeds and do not anticipate any dredging or use of fill in the removal of the track material. The crossties and/or other debris will be transported away from the rail line and will not be discarded along the right of way, nor be placed or left in streams or wetlands, or along the banks of such waterways. During track removal, appropriate measures will be implemented to prevent or control spills from fuels, lubricants or any other pollutant materials from entering any watercourses.

Based upon the above described actions, CSXT would appreciate receiving your concurrence with its position that the proposed project is consistent with applicable Federal, State and local water quality standards, and that no permits under Section 402 are required at this time. As further information, CSXT will provide a preliminary environmental report in the coming weeks which will outline the scope of the proposed salvage activity and include any comments received from your office. This environmental report can be sent electronically by email or through the United States Postal Service (USPS). Please email Jo\_Burroughs@csx.com if you wish to receive the report electronically. If we do not receive notification, it will be mailed via USPS.

Enclosed is a distribution list of all parties that have been copied on the proposed action. If you have any questions, please feel free to call or email me.

Sincerely,

Jo Ann Burroughs

Enclosures (2)

# Attachment 8

**Burroughs, JoAnn**

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**From:** susan\_zimmermann@fws.gov on behalf of Ohio, FW3 <ohio@fws.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 14, 2014 9:48 AM  
**To:** Burroughs, JoAnn  
**Subject:** Hamilton Beltline - Notice of Exemption, Butler Co. OH

TAILS# 03E15000-2014-TA-0692

Dear Ms. Burroughs,

We have received your recent correspondence requesting information about the subject proposal. There are no Federal wilderness areas, wildlife refuges or designated critical habitat within the vicinity of the project area.

ENDANGERED SPECIES COMMENTS: Due to the project, type, size, and location, we do not anticipate adverse effects to federally endangered, threatened, proposed, or candidate species. Should the project design change, or during the term of this action, additional information on listed or proposed species or their critical habitat become available, or if new information reveals effects of the action that were not previously considered, consultation with the Service should be initiated to assess any potential impacts.

If you have additional questions or require further assistance with your project proposal, please contact me at the following number (614) 416-8993, x12. In addition, you can find more information on natural resources in Ohio, and a county list of federally threatened and endangered species in Ohio, by visiting our homepage at:  
<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/ohio>.

Sincerely,



Mary Knapp, PhD  
Field Supervisor

# Attachment 9

**Burroughs, JoAnn**

---

**From:** Cotton, Christopher <Christopher.Cotton@epa.ohio.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 03, 2014 11:33 AM  
**To:** Burroughs, JoAnn  
**Cc:** Buthker, Bonnie  
**Subject:** Hamilton OH rail abandonment project

Hello Ms. Burroughs,

I am responding to your letter of 1/24/14 to Ohio EPA's Southwest District Office (received 1/27/14), regarding CSXT's plans to remove rails and abandon 2.96 miles of rail line (the "Hamilton Beltway") in Hamilton Ohio .

As stated in your letter, the project does not intend to disturb ground, and will not otherwise impact streams or wetlands in any way. Therefore, permits would not be required from Ohio EPA.

If you have further questions about this, I can be reached at 937.285.6442.

Thanks.

Chris Cotton  
Stormwater Program Coordinator  
Ohio EPA – Division of Surface Water  
Southwest District Office  
401 E. Fifth St  
Dayton, OH 45402

# Attachment 10

**Burroughs, JoAnn**

---

**From:** Siegrist, Jacob A LRH <Jacob.A.Siegrist@usace.army.mil>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 26, 2014 11:35 AM  
**To:** Burroughs, JoAnn  
**Subject:** Hamilton Beltline abandonment STB Docket No. AB 55 (Sub-No. 734X) (UNCLASSIFIED)  
**Categories:** Follow up

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Caveats: NONE

Dear Sir/Madam:

I refer to your request dated January 24, 2014 for a statement regarding the abandonment of the Hamilton Beltline from railroad milepost BDA 0.0 to 2.96 in the City of Hamilton, Butler County, Ohio.

The United States Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) authority to regulate waters of the United States (U.S.) is based, in part, on the definitions and limits of jurisdiction contained in 33 CFR 328 and 33 CFR 329. Section 404 of the Clean Water Act requires that a Department of the Army permit be obtained prior to the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the U.S., including wetlands. Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 requires that a Department of the Army permit be obtained for any work in, on, over or under a navigable water.

Based on your January 24, 2014 letter, the proposed project may involve the abandonment of the rail, discontinued service, salvage of the track and improvements and subsequent lease or sale of the property. It appears the existing track crosses Twomile Creek twice and ends near the banks of the Great Miami River. Any discharge of fill material into Twomile Creek may require notification to this office and a permit to complete any proposed discharge of fill material pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean water Act. Additionally, the track ends near the banks of the Great Miami River, a Section 10 navigable water. Any work in, on, over or under the Great Miami River would require notification to this office and a permit prior to completing the work.

The Corps does not have any other information about the presence of streams or wetlands located along the rail line. If your project may discharge fill material into a stream or wetland, it is recommended you contract the services of an environmental consultant to complete a stream and wetland delineation of the rail line. The investigation should be prepared by a consultant familiar with the Corps' 1987 Wetland Delineation Manual and the Regional Supplements.

If you have any questions concerning the above, please contact me at (513) 825-4489 or by email at [jacob.a.siegrist@usace.army.mil](mailto:jacob.a.siegrist@usace.army.mil).

Jacob Siegrist  
Regulatory Specialist, Energy Resource Branch

United States Army Corps of Engineers  
Cincinnati Field Office  
10557 McKelvey Road  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45240-3929

(513) 825-4489 Direct Line  
(304) 399-5610 Energy Resource Branch  
(513) 825-2752 Cincinnati Field Office



500 Water Street – J-315  
Jacksonville, FL 32202  
Phone: (904) 359-1247  
E-Mail: Jo\_Burroughs@csx.com

Jo Ann Burroughs  
Manager Network Services

January 24, 2014

U.S. EPA  
Region 5  
Ralph Metcalfe Federal Bldg.  
77 West Jackson Blvd  
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

Dear Sir/Madam:

Please be advised that CSX Transportation, Inc. (CSXT) is considering to file with the Surface Transportation Board (STB) a Notice of Exemption seeking authority to abandon common carrier obligation in the Northern Region, Louisville Division, Indianapolis Subdivision, from Railroad Milepost BDA 0.0 to the end of track located at approximately Railroad Milepost BDA 2.96 also known as the Hamilton Beltline. The distance is approximately 2.96 miles in Hamilton, Butler County, Ohio as depicted on the attached map. STB Docket number AB 55 (Sub-No. 734X).

The purpose of the proposed action is to abandon, discontinue service, salvage the track and improvements and subsequently lease or sell the property. There has been no traffic on the line for at least two (2) years. The Properties Group and the City of Hamilton would like to close the seven (7) public road crossings and three (3) private road crossings on this line. No new rail-oriented business is expected to develop. The Ohio DOT has expressed interest in acquiring the property for a potential trail.

This action requires Surface Transportation Board approval and Federal Regulations 49 C.F.R. 1105.7 (9) (i) and (iii) require that CSXT develop a response to the following statements:

(i) *“Based on consultation with State Water quality officials, state whether the proposed action is consistent with applicable Federal, State or local water quality standards. Describe any inconsistencies.”*

(iii) *“State whether permits under Section 402 of the Clean Water Act 33 U.S.C. 1342 are required for the proposed action.”*



500 Water Street – J-315  
Jacksonville, FL 32202  
Phone: (904) 359-1247  
E-Mail: Jo\_Burroughs@csx.com

Jo Ann Burroughs  
Manager Network Services

There are no refueling or maintenance areas within the project area. The removal of CSXT's rail material will be accomplished by use of the right of way for access, along with existing public and private crossings, and no new access roads are contemplated. CSXT does not intend to disturb any of the underlying roadbeds and do not anticipate any dredging or use of fill in the removal of the track material. The crossties and/or other debris will be transported away from the rail line and will not be discarded along the right of way, nor be placed or left in streams or wetlands, or along the banks of such waterways. During track removal, appropriate measures will be implemented to prevent or control spills from fuels, lubricants or any other pollutant materials from entering any watercourses.

Based upon the above described actions, CSXT would appreciate receiving your concurrence with its position that the proposed project is consistent with applicable Federal, State and local water quality standards, and that no permits under Section 402 are required at this time. As further information, CSXT will provide a preliminary environmental report in the coming weeks which will outline the scope of the proposed salvage activity and include any comments received from your office. This environmental report can be sent electronically by email or through the United States Postal Service (USPS). Please email Jo\_Burroughs@csx.com if you wish to receive the report electronically. If we do not receive notification, it will be mailed via USPS.

Enclosed is a distribution list of all parties that have been copied on the proposed action. If you have any questions, please feel free to call or email me.

Sincerely,

Jo Ann Burroughs

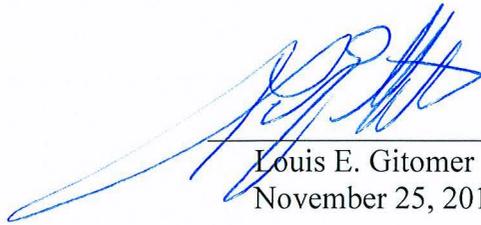
Enclosures (2)

# **EXHIBIT E- HISTORIC REPORT**

## HISTORIC REPORT CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

Pursuant to the requirements of 49 C.F.R. § 1105.8(c), the undersigned hereby certifies that a copy of the Historic Report in Docket No. AB-55 (Sub-No. 734X) was mailed via first class mail on February 12, 2014, to the following party:

Ohio Historical Society  
Ohio Preservation Office  
800 E. 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Columbus, OH 43211



---

Louis E. Gitomer  
November 25, 2013

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# HISTORIC REPORT

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**CSX TRANSPORTATION, INC.  
Hamilton, Butler County Ohio  
DOCKET AB-55 (SUB-NO. 734X)**

**1105.7(e)(1)**

**PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES.** Describe the proposed action, including commodities transported, the planned disposition (if any) of any rail line and other structures that may be involved, and any possible changes in current operations or maintenance practices. Also describe any reasonable alternatives to the proposed action. Include a readable detailed map and drawings clearly delineating the project.

CSXT proposes to abandon approximately 2.96 miles of its rail line between from Railroad Milepost BDA 0.00 (near Millville Ave) to Railroad Milepost BDA 2.96 at the end of track (near N B Street), known as the Hamilton Belt Line, in Hamilton, Butler County, Ohio.

***Notice of Exemption Language:***

The above referenced 2.96-mile line has not generated any originating or terminating traffic in over two (2) years.

Abandonment of this line will result in the removal of the rail, crossties, and possibly the upper layer of ballast. CSXT does not intend to disturb any sub grade or sub grade structures. Finally, the operations and maintenance of this line will cease.

The only alternative would be not to abandon and to pass the opportunity costs of retaining the line to all other CSXT customers. This would not be a prudent utilization of carrier resources.

A map which delineates the proposed project is attached. (See Attachment 1)

**1105.8(d)**

**(1) A U.S.G.S. topographic map (or an alternate map drawn to scale and**

**sufficiently detailed to show buildings and other structures in the vicinity of the proposed action) showing the location of the proposed action, and the locations and approximate dimensions of railroad structures that are 50 years old or older and are part of the proposed action.**

Attached are copies of the Hamilton quadrangle topographic map prepared by the U. S. Department of Interior Geological Survey prepared by the U. S. Department of Interior Geological Survey.

The line to be abandoned has been identified by a heavy red line with black dashes. (See Attachment 2)

There are no CSXT-owned structures that are 50 years old or older that may be eligible for listing in the National Register that are part of the proposed action.

CSXT does not consider timber trestle bridges as “historic” since it is CSXT’s required maintenance practice to repair timber trestle bridges on an “ongoing and as needed” basis. Repair and/or maintenance records are not retained due to the unique safety requirements that timber trestle bridges retain. Therefore, the historic qualities of such bridges are continually being changed due to safety and operational requirements.

- (2) A written description of the right of way (including approximate widths, to the extent known), and the topography and urban and/or rural characteristic of the surrounding area:**

The right of way width along this right of way is approximately 13 feet from the centerline of track. The rail line traverses the developed area of the city of Hamilton Ohio west of the Great Miami River. The line runs through the primary urban area and ends in an industrial location near down town Hamilton.

- (3) Good quality photographs (actual photographic prints, not photocopies) of railroad structures on the property that are 50 years old or older and of the immediately surrounding area:**

Not applicable

- (4) The date(s) of construction of the structure(s), and the date(s) and extent of any major alterations, to the extent such information is known:**

Not applicable

- (5) A brief narrative history of carrier operations in the area, and an explanation of what, if any, changes are contemplated as a result of the proposed action:**

The line in Hamilton, Ohio was a part of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad (B&O), system. On February 26, 1973, the Chessie System Inc. was formed, and Chessie System Railroads was adopted as the new corporate identity for the C&O, B&O and WM Railroads. On November 1, 1980, Seaboard Coast Line Industries Inc. and Chessie System Inc. merged and became CSX Corporation. On April 30, 1987, the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Company was merged into the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway Company. The Chesapeake and Ohio Railway Company was merged into CSX Transportation on September 2, 1987.

Upon receiving abandonment authority, Applicant's operations and maintenance over this line will cease.

The Ohio DOT has expressed interest in acquiring the property for a potential trail.

- (6) A brief summary of documents in the carrier's possession, such as engineering drawings, that might be useful in documenting a structure that is found to be historic:**

Not applicable

- (7) An opinion (based on readily available information in the railroad's possession) as to whether the site and/or structures meet the criteria for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (36 C.F.R. 60.4), and whether there is a likelihood of archeological resources or any other previously unknown historic properties in the project area, and the basis for these opinions (including any consultations with the State Historic Preservation Office, local historical societies or universities):**

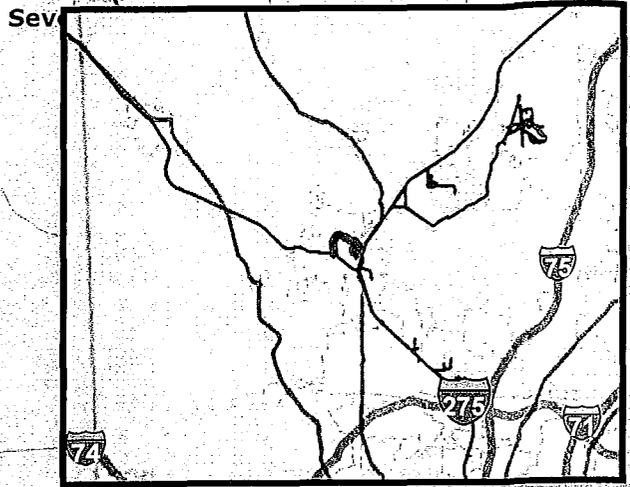
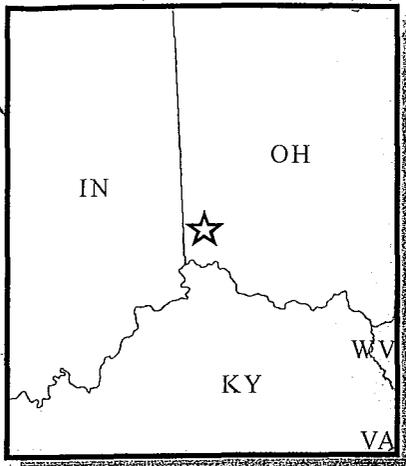
We do not know of any significance or uniqueness to this structure that would warrant your consideration, since to our knowledge, it is not associated with any event that has made a contribution to the

broad patterns of history; or were not associated with lives of persons significant to our past; do not embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction; and do not represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction and have not or may not be likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

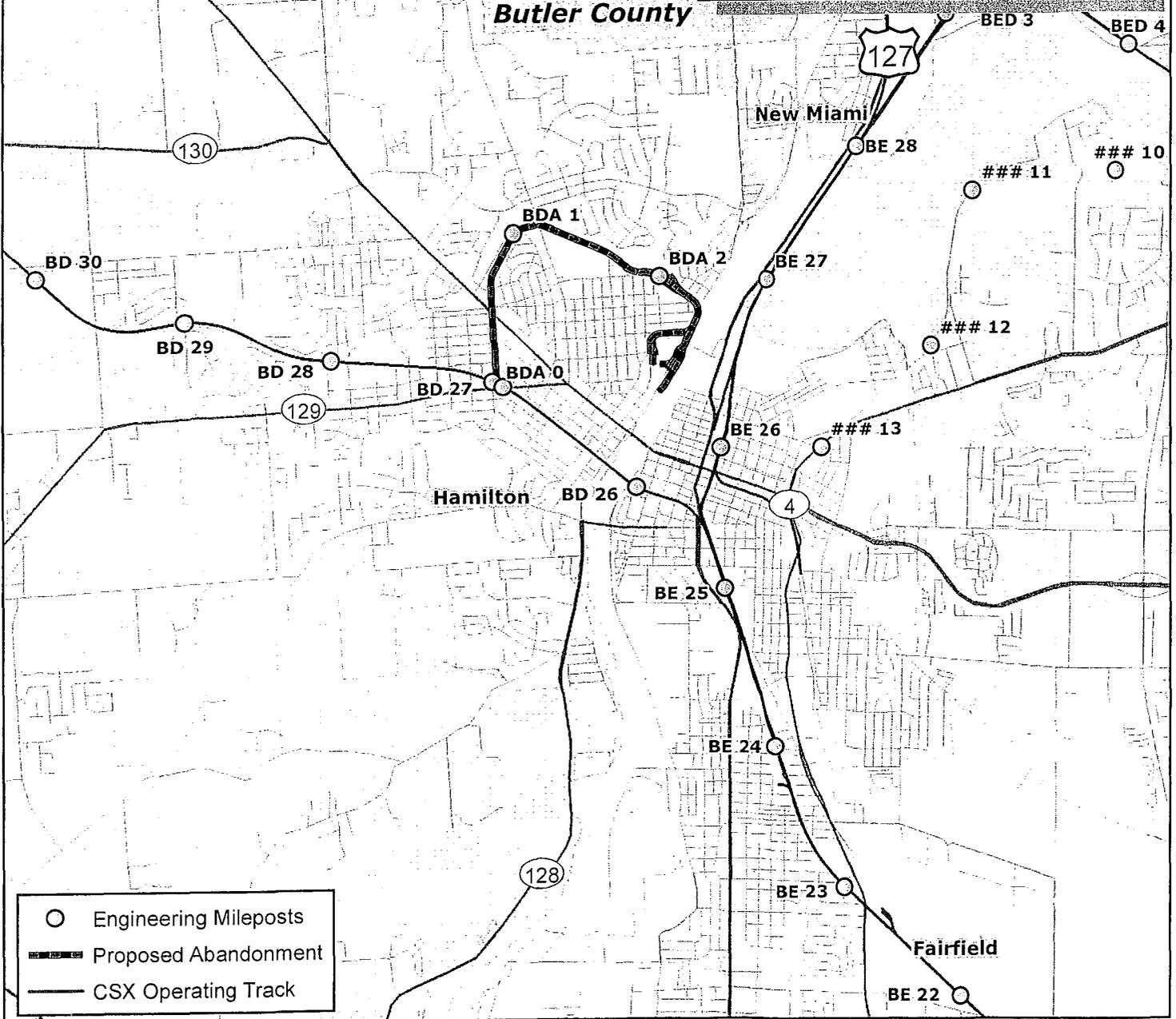
We do not know of any archeological resources or any other previously unknown historic properties in the project area.

- (8) A description (based on readily available information in the railroad's possession) of any known prior subsurface ground disturbance or fill, environmental conditions (naturally occurring or man-made) that might affect the archeological recovery of resources (such as swampy conditions or the presence of toxic wastes), and the surrounding terrain.**

The line was disturbed during construction by cuts and fill and any archeological resources that may have been located in the proposed project area would have been affected at that time versus during the proposed salvage operations associated with rail removal. Our records do not indicate that any swampy conditions exist, or that any hazardous material spills have occurred within the project area.



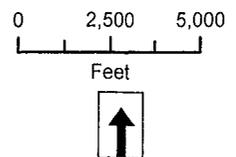
**Butler County**



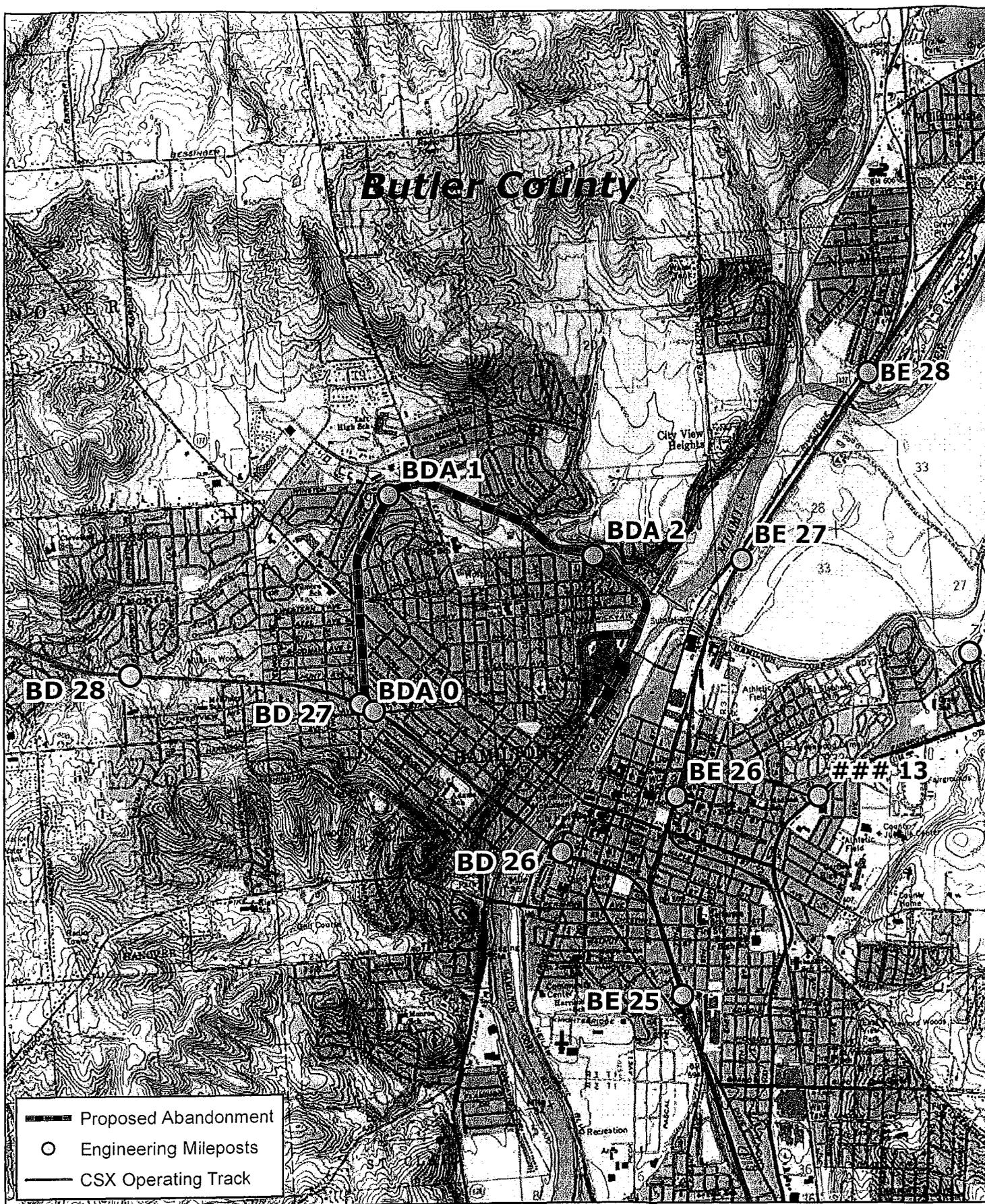
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|--|-----------------------|
|  | Engineering Mileposts |
|  | Proposed Abandonment  |
|  | CSX Operating Track   |



**CSX Transportation, Inc.**  
**Proposed Abandonment**  
**Hamilton, OH**  
 MP BDA 0.0 to BDA 2.96  
 Total Distance of approx. 2.96 Miles  
 Hamilton, Butler County, OH  
 STB Docket No. AB 55 (Sub-No. 734X)



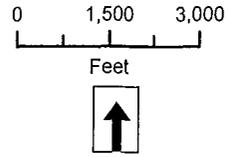
# Butler County



- Proposed Abandonment
- Engineering Mileposts
- CSX Operating Track



**CSX Transportation, Inc.**  
**Proposed Abandonment**  
**Hamilton Topographic Quadrangle**  
MP BDA 0.0 to BDA 2.96  
Total Distance of approx. 2.96 Miles  
Hamilton, Butler County, OH  
STB Docket No. AB 55 (Sub-No. 734X)





500 Water Street – J-315  
Jacksonville, FL 32202  
Phone: (904) 359-1247  
E-Mail: Jo\_Burroughs@csx.com

Jo Ann Burroughs  
Manager Network Services

February 12, 2014

Ohio Historical Society  
Ohio Preservation Office  
800 E. 17th Avenue  
Columbus OH 43211

Dear Sir/Madam;

Please be advised that CSX Transportation, Inc. (CSXT) is considering to file with the Surface Transportation Board (STB) a Notice of Exemption seeking authority to abandon common carrier obligation in the Northern Region, Louisville Division, Indianapolis Subdivision, from Railroad Milepost BDA 0.0 to the end of track located at approximately Railroad Milepost BDA 2.96 also known as the Hamilton Beltline. The distance is approximately 2.96 miles in Hamilton, Butler County, Ohio as depicted on the attached map. STB Docket number AB 55 (Sub-No. 734X).

The purpose of the proposed action is to abandon, discontinue service, salvage the track and improvements and subsequently lease or sell the property. There has been no traffic on the line for at least two (2) years. The Properties Group and the City of Hamilton would like to close the seven (7) public road crossings and three (3) private road crossings on this line. No new rail-oriented business is expected to develop. The Ohio DOT has expressed interest in acquiring the property for a potential trail.

In connection with rail lines that are to become the subject of applications for authority to abandon, Federal Regulations at 49 CFR 1105.8(d), require that a Historic Report be submitted to the State Historic Preservation Officer prior to filing with the Surface Transportation Board. In accordance with those Regulations, I am attaching a Historic Report covering the above-proposed abandonment.



500 Water Street – J-315  
Jacksonville, FL 32202  
Phone: (904) 359-1247  
E-Mail: Jo\_Burroughs@csx.com

Jo Ann Burroughs  
Manager Network Services

We would appreciate receiving a letter from your office confirming that this project will have no impact upon cultural resources.

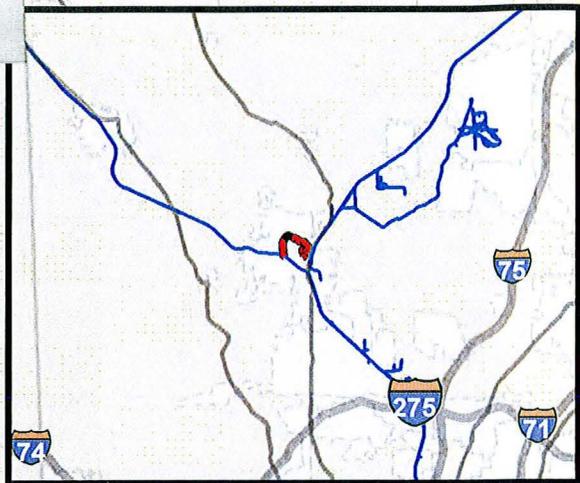
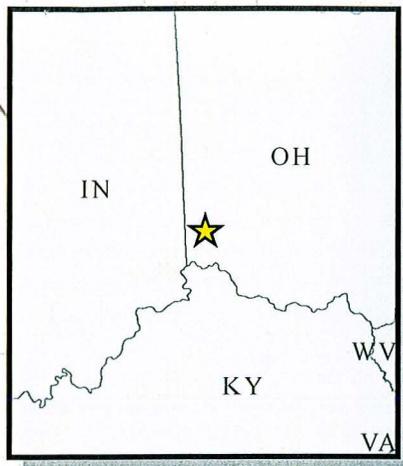
Enclosed is a distribution list of all parties that have been copied on the proposed action. If you have any questions, please feel free to call or email me.

Sincerely,

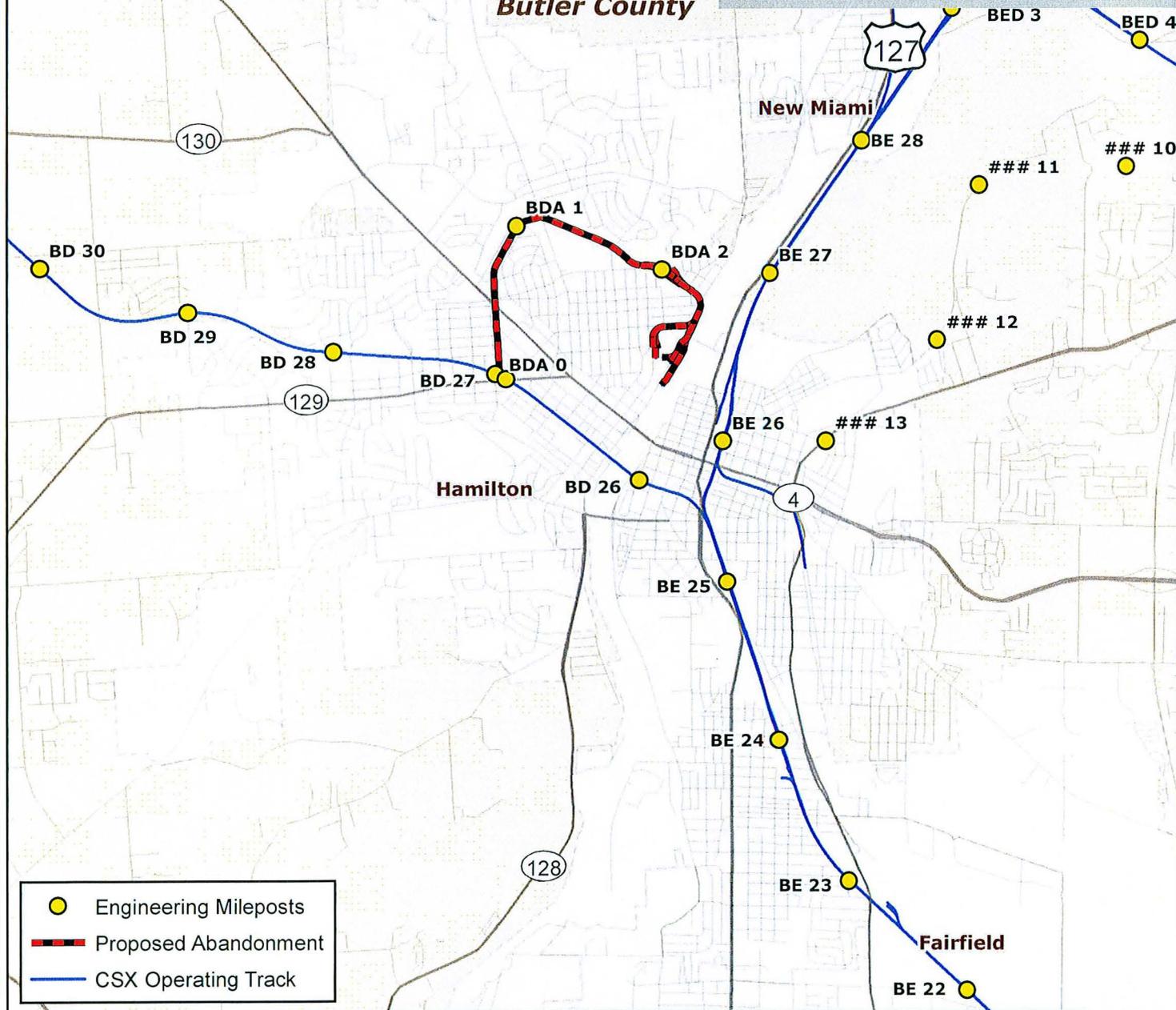
Jo Ann Burroughs  
Enclosures (2)

## **EXHIBIT F—COLOR EXHIBITS**

# Attachment 1



**Butler County**

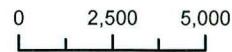


- Engineering Mileposts
- Proposed Abandonment
- CSX Operating Track



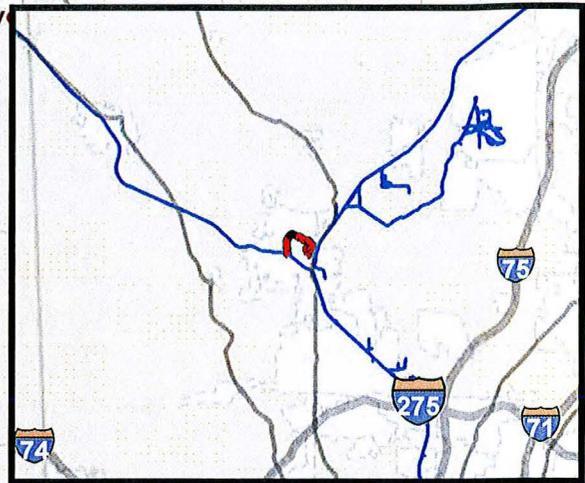
CSX Real Property, Inc.

**CSX Transportation, Inc.  
Proposed Abandonment  
Hamilton, OH**  
MP BDA 0.0 to BDA 2.96  
Total Distance of approx. 2.96 Miles  
Hamilton, Butler County, OH  
STB Docket No. AB 55 (Sub-No. 734X)

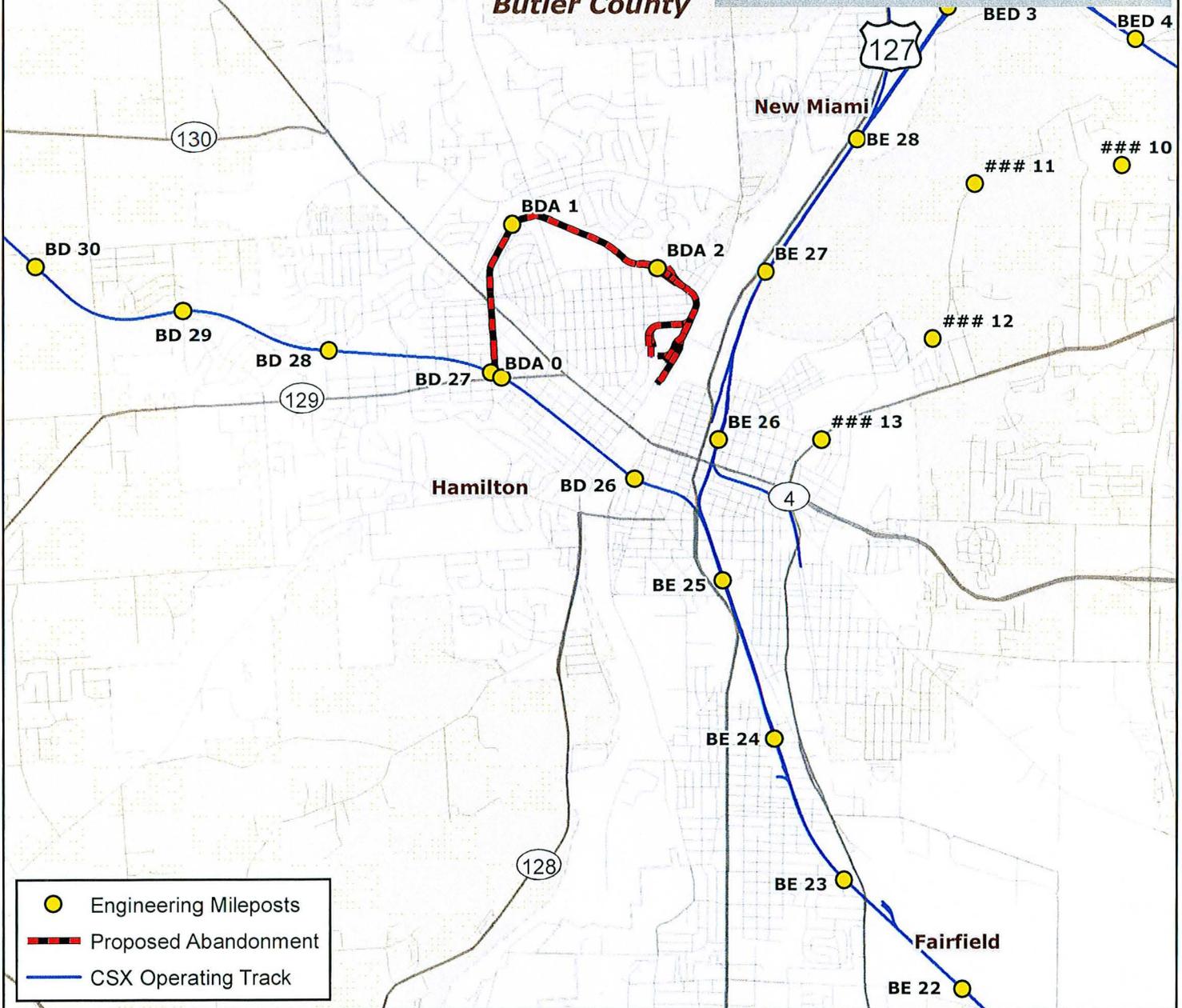


Feet





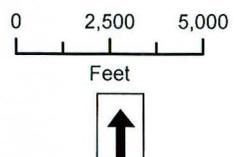
**Butler County**



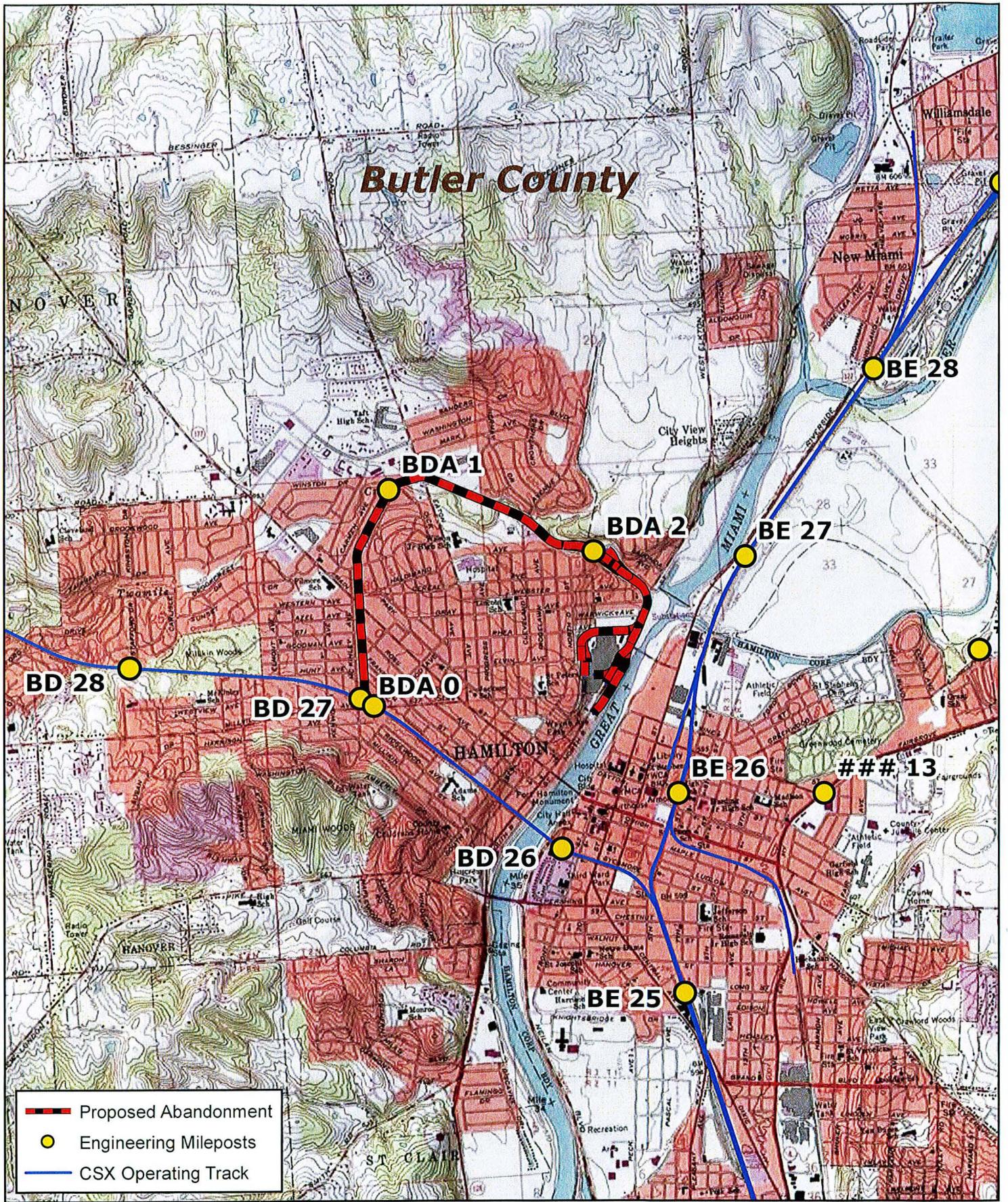
- Engineering Mileposts
- Proposed Abandonment
- CSX Operating Track



**CSX Transportation, Inc.**  
**Proposed Abandonment**  
**Hamilton, OH**  
 MP BDA 0.0 to BDA 2.96  
 Total Distance of approx. 2.96 Miles  
 Hamilton, Butler County, OH  
 STB Docket No. AB 55 (Sub-No. 734X)



# Butler County



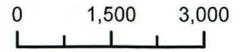
- Proposed Abandonment
- Engineering Mileposts
- CSX Operating Track



CSX Real Property, Inc.

## CSX Transportation, Inc. Proposed Abandonment Hamilton Topographic Quadrangle

MP BDA 0.0 to BDA 2.96  
Total Distance of approx. 2.96 Miles  
Hamilton, Butler County, OH  
STB Docket No. AB 55 (Sub-No. 734X)



Feet

