



NEW JERSEY SENATE

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December 01, 2014

Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423
Attn: Chairman Daniel R. Elliot III
and Members of the Board

Re: the Harsimus Embankment, Jersey City, New Jersey

Dear Chairman Elliott and Members of the Board:

I write to express my support for the City of Jersey City's efforts, together with the Embankment Coalition, to secure the Harsimus Branch from Marin Boulevard to Waldo pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 10904 and other applicable statutes. The Harsimus Embankment is listed on the State Register of Historic Places since 1999; furthermore, since the year 2000, it is eligible for listing on the National Register for Historic Places.

The City of Jersey City and the Coalition have sought to acquire the branch for public uses consistent with the historic preservation, including freight rail, commuter rail, trail and other public uses. In 2005 the Consolidated Rail Corporation ("Conrail") improperly sold eight blocks of the Branch to 212 Marin Boulevard LLC for development. Since that time the City of Jersey City has made attempts to preserve the Harsimus Branch.

The City of Jersey City has sought to file an offer of financial assistance (OFA). If allowed to do so and if OFA is successful, the City's intent is to install, and designate an operator to operate a freight transload facility on the Harsimus Branch fully consistent with the requirements of 49 U.S.C. 10904.

I fully support the City's requests that the STB a) determine that the City has fulfilled all preconditions set forth by the STB's May 26, 2009 decision and b) request that the Conrail supply the City the information required under the decision. I thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Brian P. Stack
State Senator

OFFICE OF CHAIRMAN

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