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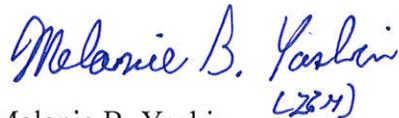
Ms. Victoria Rutson  
Director, Office of Environmental Analysis  
Surface Transportation Board  
395 E Street S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20423

Re: **Docket No. AB-55 (Sub-No. 784X), CSX Transportation, Inc.—Abandonment  
Exemption—in Cobb, GA**

Dear Ms. Rutson:

Enclosed please find the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Historic Preservation Division's ("HPD") comments finding an adverse effect to historic properties because abandonment will place the resource out of federal control. However, as CSX Transportation, Inc. ("CSXT") stated in its Notice of Exemption, its abandonment authority is granted, CSXT plans to transfer the line to the State of Georgia under the Trails Act.

Sincerely yours,

Handwritten signature of Melanie B. Yasbin in blue ink, with the initials "LBY" written below the signature.

Melanie B. Yasbin  
Attorney for CSX Transportation, Inc.

Enclosure



HISTORIC PRESERVATION DIVISION

MARK WILLIAMS  
COMMISSIONER

DR. DAVID CRASS  
DIVISION DIRECTOR

October 18, 2018

Gene Payne  
Manager, Joint Facilities  
CSX Transportation, Inc.  
500 Water Street  
Jacksonville, Florida 32202

**RE: CSX: Abandon 2.3 Miles, 579.29/Plant Atkinson Road to  
581.61/East West Connector, Atlanta Terminal, Smyrna  
Cobb County, Georgia  
HP-180928-006**

Dear Mr. Payne:

The Historic Preservation Division (HPD) has reviewed the information submitted concerning the above referenced project. Our comments are offered to assist the Surface Transportation Board (STB) and CSX Transportation, Inc. (CSX) in complying with the provisions of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (NHPA).

The subject project consists of abandoning approximately 2.3 miles of rail line from milepost SG 579.29 near Plant Atkinson Road to milepost SG 581.61 near East West Connector in Smyrna. HPD would like to note that based on the forthcoming railroad context entitled, *Georgia's Railroads, 1833-2015: Historic Context and Statewide Survey*, and as previously stated by our office, most railroads in the State of Georgia are eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), under Criteria A and C for transportation and engineering. As such, HPD finds that the Atlanta & Birmingham Air Line/Seaboard Air Line railroad is eligible for listing in the NRHP. As further noted by our office, abandonment of a rail line, which places the resource out of federal control, is, by definition, an adverse effect. Therefore, HPD finds that the proposed project constitutes an **adverse effect** to historic properties that are listed in or eligible for listing in the NRHP, as defined in 36 CFR Part 800.5(a)(2).

When an adverse effect to a historic property is found, the federal agency must notify the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and consult with the State Historic Preservation Officer on ways to avoid or reduce adverse effects to historic properties. HPD would like to make it clear that this determination of an adverse effect is not the end of the consultation process. HPD should be given the opportunity to review and comment on alternate approaches, as they become available, prior to proceeding with the work, as part of a selection process to choose an appropriate plan that will conform to a more favorable effects assessment. We would like to work with STB and CSX in finding ways to avoid, minimize or mitigate this adverse effect. We look forward to discussing these options with you and working with you as this project progresses.

Please refer to project number **HP-180928-006** in any future correspondence regarding this project. If we may be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact Jennifer Dixon, Environmental Review Program Manager, at [jennifer.dixon@dnr.ga.gov](mailto:jennifer.dixon@dnr.ga.gov) or (770) 389-7851.

V/r,

Dr. David Crass  
Division Director  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

DCC/jad

Cc: Allison Duncan, Atlanta Regional Commission