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May 27, 2015

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May 27, 2015
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Via eFiling

The Honorable Cynthia T. Brown
Chief, Section of Administration
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W., Room 100
Washington, DC 20423-0001

**Re: Abandonment Exemption and Discontinuance of Operations over the
Weber Industrial Lead from M.P. 5.8 near Wilson Avenue to M.P. 9.5
near Touhy Avenue, a distance of 3.7 miles in Cook County, Illinois;
STB Docket No. AB-33 (Sub-No. 263X)**

Concurrence For Extension of Negotiation Period for Reduced Distance

Dear Ms. Brown:

Union Pacific Railroad Company ("Union Pacific") has received a request from the City of Chicago, an Illinois municipal corporation, (the "City"), seeking to extend the negotiation period covering the issuance of a Certificate or Notice of Interim Trail Use pursuant to 16 U.S.C. § 1247(d) and 49 C.F.R. § 1152.29 for the portion of the Union Pacific's Weber Industrial Lead located in the City between approximately Milepost 5.8 Near Wilson Avenue to the border with the Village of Lincolnwood, Illinois, at approximately Milepost 8.4 near Devon Avenue, a distance of approximately 2.6 miles in Cook County, Illinois.

The Union Pacific is only willing to extend the negotiation period for the reduced portion of the Line from Milepost 7.1 near Bryn Mawr Avenue to the border with the Village of Lincolnwood, Illinois, at approximately Milepost 8.4 near Devon Avenue, a distance of approximately 1.3 miles in Cook County, Illinois for 180 days from May 16, 2015 to November 12, 2015. The remaining portion of the Line from Milepost 5.8 near Wilson Avenue to Milepost 7.1 near Bryn Mawr Avenue is hereby withdrawn from the abandonment authorization and will remain a part of Union Pacific's railroad system. A copy of the City's request for extension is attached hereto as Exhibit A and is hereby made a part hereof.

Sincerely,



Attachment

cc: City of Chicago

2015_05_27 STB-180Days-City of Chicago.doc

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CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
CITY OF CHICAGO

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May 8, 2015
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May 8, 2015

VIA E-FILING

Ms. Cynthia Brown
Chief, Section of Administration
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Mack H. Shumate, Jr.
101 North Wacker Drive, Room 1920
Chicago, IL 60606

Re: Union Pacific Railroad Company--Abandonment Exemption and Discontinuance of Operations over the Weber Industrial Lead from Milepost 5.8 near Wilson Avenue, Chicago, to Milepost 9.5 near Touhy Avenue, Skokie, a Distance of 3.7 Miles in Cook County, IL; STB Docket No. AB-33 (Sub-No. 263X)

Dear Ms. Brown:

The City of Chicago, an Illinois municipal corporation, acting by and through its Department of Transportation ("City"), hereby petitions the Surface Transportation Board ("Board") for an order extending its Decision and Notice of Interim Trail Use or Abandonment ("NITU") in the above-referenced matter for an additional 180 days, through and including May 16, 2015.

On December 9, 2008, the City filed a petition for a Public Use Condition as well as a Certificate or Notice of Interim Trail Use ("Petition"), rather than an outright abandonment authorization, for the portion of the Weber Industrial Lead extending from milepost 5.8 near Wilson Avenue in Chicago to approximately milepost 8.4 near Devon Avenue, a distance of approximately 2.6 miles. The Village of Lincolnwood ("Village") filed a similar trail use/rail banking request on the portion of the rail line traversing the village.

On December 17, 2008, the Board issued its NITU, providing for a 180-day period for negotiations between the City, the Village and Union Pacific Railroad Company ("UP"). By multiple decisions, the most recent (ID# 44124) decided on November 24, 2014 and served on November 25, 2014, the Board extended the NITU negotiating period to November 12, 2015.

FILING FEE WAIVED

As noted in previous filings on this docket, CDOT needs the assistance of a consultant team to conduct preliminary engineering and environmental studies and provide real estate acquisition services. Four-fifths of the cost of the teams' efforts will be funded by the federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) Program.

Also as noted, due to past events beyond its control, we were delayed in getting a team under contract for these services. The team eventually awarded the contract began work in August 2014 and is underway with surveying, title research, and other forms of data collection needed for the City to do due diligence in this acquisition.

Although the City is making progress, it needs additional time to complete its trail engineering plan and conclude negotiations with UP.

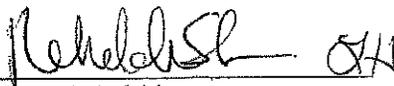
In support of its request for additional time, the City renews its Petition and its Statement of Willingness to Assume Financial Responsibility.

A copy of this statement is being served on UP on the same date it is being served on the Board. By my signature below, I certify service upon Union Pacific Railroad Company, Attn: Mack H. Shumate, Jr., 101 North Wacker Drive, Room 1920, Chicago, IL 60606, by U.S. Mail, postage prepaid, first class, this 8th day of May 2015.

Pursuant to 49 C.F.R. § 1002.2(e)(1), the filing fee for this request is waived.

Respectfully submitted,

CITY OF CHICAGO, an Illinois municipal corporation

By: 
Rebekah Scheinfeld
Commissioner of Transportation