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CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
CITY OF CHICAGO

November 10, 2015

VIA E-FILING

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

Soo Line Railroad Company
c/o W. Karl Hansen
STINSON LEONARD STREET
150 South Fifth Street, Suite 2300
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402

Re: Soo Line Railroad Company--Abandonment Exemption--in Cook County, IL, STB
Docket No. AB-57 (Sub-No. 63X)

Dear Ms. Brown:

This comment should be treated as a protest or a petition for reconsideration in the above-captioned proceeding. This comment is filed on behalf of the City of Chicago, an Illinois municipal corporation, acting by and through its Department of Transportation ("Commenter").

While not taking a position on the merits of this abandonment, Commenter requests issuance of a Public Use Condition as well as a Certificate or Notice of Interim Trail Use rather than an outright abandonment authorization of approximately 5,253 feet of railroad line between Milepost 0.0+/- AND Milepost 0.9 +/- (Dunning Line)

A. Public Use Condition.

Commenter requests the Board to find that this property is suitable for other public use, specifically trail use, and to place the following conditions on the abandonment:

An order prohibiting the carrier from disposing of the corridor, other than the tracks, ties and signal equipment, except for public use on reasonable terms. Portions of the spur are located in proximity to important land uses including Brickyard Shopping Center, Shriner's Hospital, UNO

FILING FEE WAIVED

30 NORTH LASALLE STREET, SUITE 1100, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60602

Charter School and the corporate headquarters of iconic toy manufacturer Radio Flyer. The time period sought is 180 days from the effective date of the abandonment authorization. Commenter needs this much time because we have not had an opportunity to assemble or to review title, appraisal and environmental information, complete a trail plan or commence negotiations with the carrier.

B. Interim Trail Use.

The railroad right-of-way in this proceeding is suitable for railbanking. In addition to the public use conditions sought above, Commenter also makes the following request:

STATEMENT OF WILLINGNESS TO ASSUME FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY.

In order to establish interim trail use and rail banking under section 8(d) of the National Trails System Act, 16 U.S.C. §1247(d), and 49 C.F.R. §1152.29, the City of Chicago is willing to assume full responsibility for management of, for any legal liability arising out of the transfer or use of (unless the user is immune from liability, in which case it need only indemnify the railroad against any potential liability), and for the payment of any and all taxes that may be levied or assessed against the right-of-way owned by Soo Line Railroad Company d/b/a Canadian Pacific.

The property, an industrial spur approximately 5,253 feet in length between Milepost 0.0 +/- (Milepost 8.9 +/- on the Metra main line) and Milepost 0.9 +/- at the intersection of Diversey Avenue in Chicago (Dunning Line) which traverses through United States Postal Service ZIP Code 60707 in Cook County, Illinois. The right-of-way is part of a line of railroad proposed for abandonment in STB Docket No. AB-57 (Sub-No. 63X). A map depicting the right-of-way is attached and was also included in Soo Line's STB filing 239270.

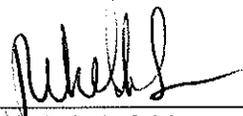
The City of Chicago acknowledges that use of the right-of-way is subject to the user's continuing to meet its responsibilities described above and subject to possible future reconstruction and reactivation of the right-of-way for rail service. A copy of this statement is being served on the railroad on the same date it is being served on the Board.

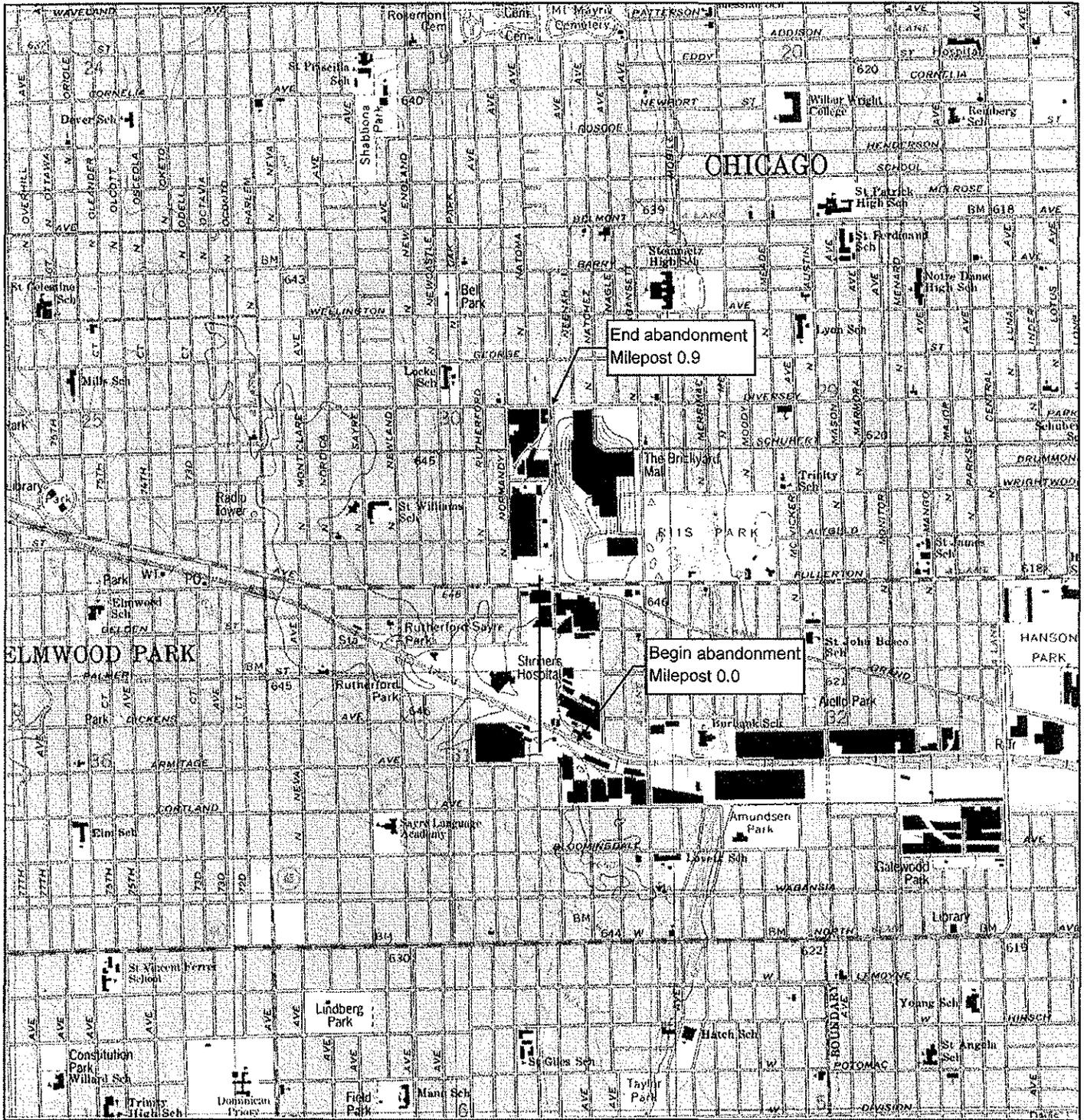
By my signature below, I certify service upon Soo Line Railroad Company, c/o W. Karl Hansen, STINSON LEONARD STREET, 150 South Fifth Street, Suite 2300 Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402, by U.S. Mail, postage prepaid, first class, this 10th day of November, 2015.

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



	TARGET QUAD	Soo Line Railroad Company Dunning Line Abandonment	STB Docket No. AB-57 (Sub-No. 63X)
	NAME: RIVER FOREST		
	MAP YEAR: 1997		
	LAT/LONG: 41.9249 / 87.7904		
	SERIES: 7.5		
SCALE: 1:24000			