



CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
CITY OF CHICAGO

November 21, 2012

VIA E-FILING

233379

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

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
November 21, 2012
Part of
Public Record

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 26, 2013.

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# 42444) served on July 11, 2012, the Board extended the NITU negotiating period to November 27, 2012.

Previously, a consultant team had been selected to conduct preliminary engineering and environmental studies compliant with FHWA standards and to provide real estate acquisition services under USDOT guidelines.

On June 5, 2012, Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) suspended the selected firm from participating in any contract with the agency or any contract with a local agency subject to its approval, citing accounting irregularities. Because this project will use FHWA funds, it was subject to this ruling and the previously submitted contract was not able to be approved by IDOT.

In light of these circumstances, CDOT notified IDOT and the City's Department of Procurement Services on June 27, 2012 that it would instead begin contract negotiations anew with the firm with the next highest scoring proposal. Those negotiations are underway and nearing completion.

When this contract is approved by IDOT, the studies will begin. Four-fifths of the cost of the teams' efforts will be funded by the federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) Program. The City is trying to make progress, but due to these event beyond its control, The City needs additional time to complete its trail engineering plan and conclude negotiations with UP.

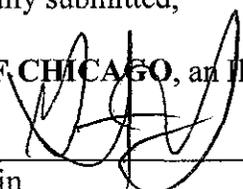
In support of its request for additional time, the City renews its Petition and its Statement of Willingness to Assume Financial Responsibility.

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 21st day of November 2012.

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:  
Gabe Klein
Commissioner of Transportation