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COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF RAIL AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION
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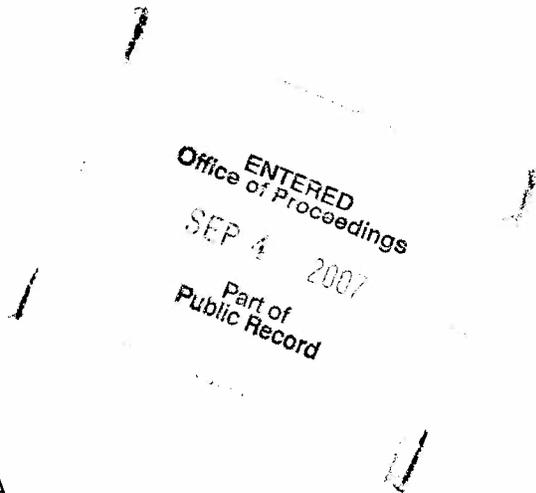
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August 27, 2007

Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

James R. Paschall
Norfolk Southern Railway Company
Three Commercial Place
Norfolk, Virginia 23510-2191



RE: STB Docket No. AB-290 (Sub-No.293X)
Norfolk Southern Railway Company
Abandonment Exemption in Norfolk and Virginia Beach, VA

To The Parties Addressed:

The Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) supports the petition of Norfolk Southern Railway for an Abandonment Exemption of the South Beach line section as petitioned under STB Docket No. AB-290 (Sub-No.293X).

Our agency is aware of local interest in retaining this line for the Norfolk Light Rail Transit Project. Granting the requested exemption will enable deliberations and analysis on the future use of the line to be completed. DRPT recognizes that the Norfolk Light Rail Transit Project will serve as a critical component of the transportation network in Hampton Roads, and we support the City of Norfolk's efforts to purchase portions of this line as part of the project development process.

Sincerely,

Matthew O. Tucker

c: Mayor Paul Fraim, City of Norfolk and Chairman, Hampton Roads MPO
Michael Townes, CEO, Hampton Roads Transit

The Smartest Distance Between Two Points
www.drpt.virginia.gov