

**BEFORE THE
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD**

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
May 6, 2022
Part of
Public Record

Docket No. AB-1316X

**GNP RLY, INC. – ABANDONMENT EXEMPTION –
IN KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

**VERIFIED STATEMENT OF BRANDON BUCHANAN
IN SUPPORT OF GNP RLY, INC.
VERIFIED NOTICE OF EXEMPTION**

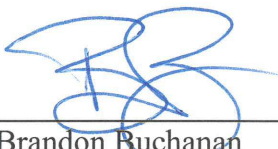
I, Brandon Buchanan, do swear and affirm the following to the best of my personal knowledge:

1. I am the City Manager of Woodinville, Washington (“the City”), and have served in that position since March 1, 2016.
2. On March 18, 2022 GNP RLY, INC. (“GNP”) filed in this docket a Verified Notice of Exemption for GNP to abandon an approximately 2.58 mile segment of its rail line in Woodinville, together with a spur that extends into Bothell, Washington (“the Line”).
3. On May 4, 2022 GNP filed in this docket a Second Supplement To Verified Notice of Exemption, in which GNP declared that it has entered into an agreement with the City to railbank the Line described in the Verified Notice of Exemption. GNP attached to its Second Supplement a copy of the March 2021 Settlement Agreement between GNP and the City.

4. I executed the March 2021 Settlement Agreement on behalf of the City, and represented the City in negotiating the Agreement with GNP.
5. GNP's Second Supplement accurately describes the shared intention of GNP and the City to request authorization from the Board to railbank the Line and to consummate the transfer of the Line from GNP to the City as a railbanked right of way, promptly upon issuance by the Board of a Notice of Interim Trail Use covering the Line. The City plans to file a Statement of Willingness To Assume Financial Responsibility as soon as it is authorized to do so under the provisions of 49 CFR 1152.29(a)(3).
6. There is no foreseeable circumstance under which the City of Woodinville would terminate interim trail use or support abandonment of the Line. The route of the Line traverses downtown Woodinville, and the City plans to develop the right of way for trail use, subject to possible future reactivation of rail service as provided in the railbanking statute.
7. The City is working to secure funding from a number of granting agencies, including federal, state, and local, to complete various public works projects within this corridor including the aforementioned trail. Many of those grant opportunities hinge on the ability of the City to timely move toward and begin construction of the projects they are intended to fund. Further delay in disposition of this matter jeopardizes the ability of the City to secure significant and necessary funding for these important public works.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on May 4, 2022.



Brandon Buchanan

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that on May 6, 2022 I served an e-filed copy of the foregoing document upon all parties of record in this proceeding, as listed below per the STB service list, by e-mail.

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Attorney for GNP RLY, Inc.

DATED: Friday, May 06, 2022



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