



HISTORIC PRESERVATION DIVISION

MARK WILLIAMS
COMMISSIONER

DR. DAVID CRASS
DIVISION DIRECTOR

August 23, 2017

Howard McFadden
Senior General Attorney Real Estate
Norfolk Southern Railway
1200 Peachtree Street NE
Atlanta, Georgia 30309

**RE: Norfolk: Abandon/Sell One (1) Mile of Rail Line to Atlanta Beltline, Inc.,
MP DF 632.1 to MP DF 633.1, Atlanta
Fulton County, Georgia
HP-161121-002**

Dear Mr. McFadden:

The Historic Preservation Division (HPD) has reviewed the additional information submitted concerning the above referenced project. Our comments are offered to assist the Surface Transportation Board (STB) and its applicants in complying with the provisions of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (NHPA).

The subject project consists of the rail abandonment and sale of a former rail line, including one bridge, in Atlanta, with subsequent salvage of track materials and leveling of the railbed. The project was previously determined to have an adverse effect on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)-eligible Atlanta and Richmond Air-Line Railway.

The current submitted information consists of an executed amendment to the Contract of Purchase and Sale between Atlanta Beltline, Inc. and Norfolk Southern Railway (Contract). Based on the additional information provided, it is HPD's understanding that the Contract now includes a contingency which requires Atlanta Beltline, Inc. (ABI) to engage a Secretary of the Interior's qualified professional to evaluate the effect of proposed work on the NRHP-eligible railway and to resolve adverse effects, if any, with our office. The amendment to the Contract appears acceptable as avoiding the adverse effect by providing an adequate and enforceable contingency on the sale and purchase of the NRHP-eligible railway. As such, the adverse effect determination no longer appears applicable. Therefore, HPD finds that the subject project, as proposed, will have **no adverse effect** to historic properties within its area of potential effects (APE), as defined in 36 CFR Part 800.5(d)(1).

This letter evidences consultation with our office for compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA. It is important to remember that any changes to this project, as it is currently proposed, may require additional consultation. HPD encourages federal agencies and project applicants to discuss such changes with our office to ensure that potential effects to historic resources are adequately considered in project planning.

We look forward to working with ABI as projects present themselves regarding the Atlanta and Richmond Air-Line Railway. Please refer to project number **HP-161121-002** in any future correspondence regarding this project. If we may be of further assistance, please feel free to contact me at (770) 389-7851 or Jennifer.dixon@dnr.ga.gov.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Dixon, MHP, LEED Green Associate
Program Manager
Environmental Review & Preservation Planning

cc: Adam Assenza, STB