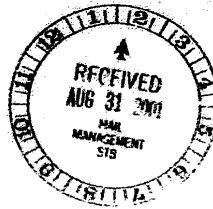


206252



August 30, 2001

Honorable Vernon Williams
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

RE: 1411 Corp - Exemption - in Lancaster County, Pa, AB 581X, Middletown
& Hummelstown Railroad Co. - Exemption - in Lancaster, Pa, AB-529X

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter is on behalf of six candidates for Columbia Borough Council and mayor. You should be in receipt of a recent filing regarding the above proceeding. Please accept the 10 enclosed copies and the Certificate of Service that we inadvertently forgot to include in our original filing.

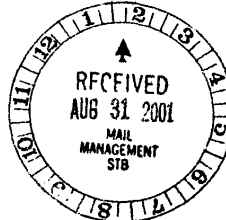
If you have any questions regarding this matter, please feel free to contact me at (717) 787-6526.

Sincerely,

Paul Resch, president
Columbia Area Democratic Club

August 20, 2001

Honorable Vernon Williams
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001



RE: 1411 Corp - Exemption - in Lancaster County, Pa, AB 581X; Middletown
& Hummelstown Railroad Co. - Exemption - In Lancaster, Pa, AB-529X

Dear Mr. Williams:

We, the undersigned candidates for Mayor and Borough Council in the Borough of Columbia, Lancaster County, enthusiastically support Shawnee Run Greenway, Inc.'s plans to build a 2.4-mile greenway. Please note that the undersigned candidates represent six of the eight candidates nominated at the May 15 Primary Election. We represent both the endorsed Democratic candidates and the Republican-affiliated Columbia Pride Team.

We join Borough Council members Joseph M. Wright, Sr., Nora Stark and Mary Wickenheiser in supporting this project. Please note that one of the undersigned Borough Council candidates is assured a seat on the 2002-2003 council. Further, the Mayor's post will be occupied by one of the undersigned mayoral candidates. Consequently, greenway supporters will have a majority on Borough Council and will serve as our next mayor.

Converting this corridor to alternative public use as a greenway is not a new idea. Early references to such use go back 30 years. Borough zoning and planning documents emphasize conversion to alternative use of this long-inactive railroad corridor. We share that goal and propose that developing this corridor for alternative public use will provide the following benefits:

Recreational opportunities will be improved for the residents of Columbia and West Hempfield Township. Both municipalities have parks available for public use, but fall short of the recommendation in Lancaster County's 1995 Comprehensive Plan of 10-acres of recreational land per 1,000 residents.

Conserving open space is critical to maintaining quality of life in a community such as Columbia Borough. With an extreme population density of 6,688 residents per square mile, the Borough's 1995 Comprehensive Plan made the following conclusion: "The heavy vegetative canopy overhanging Shawnee Run, the gentle continuous stream flow, and the historic appearance of an historic stone wall, all contribute to the potential for a setting that would offer welcome relief from the Borough's intensive development pattern."

Environmental learning opportunities within this conservation-zoned land will provide area students with a creative way of meeting the Standards for Environment and Ecology as established by the Pennsylvania Department of Education. At the same time, we will be helping to achieve the goals outlined in the Chesapeake Bay 2000 Agreement. Through annual cleanups and development of environmental walking tours, we can educate the community about recycling and the effects of pollution on the ecosystem.

The development of phase one and subsequent phases of the Greenway will provide safe and convenient access to these study areas. It is our belief that future generations will benefit from this innovative project's approach to environmental awareness and improvement of the Susquehanna River Basin and the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

Cultural conservation will be another integral part of the overall Greenway project. As citizens move along the greenway, they will experience through wayside stops how Shawnee Run provided one of life's basic needs for a scattered village of Shawanese Indians along their namesakes bank, to how the R&C Railroad combined with world-class industries fueled the economic expansion of a nation. Tourists and locals could use a combination of the Greenway and marked routes throughout the town to explore the museums, architecture, and fabulous stories relating to our diverse ethnic past.

Economic development in a 275-year-old borough that has experienced steady economic decline for almost a century is a constant challenge. In a community where 10 percent of residents live below the federal poverty level, we believe the Greenway will become a catalyst for revitalizing Columbia Borough both economically and socially in the following manner:

- Developing this unique asset with all of its themes will reawaken our great sense of community and create learning opportunities unparalleled anywhere else in the county. By building a community in which people want to live, work, and raise families, we will create an environment that is conducive to new businesses. Columbia Downtown Development Corporation (CDDC), a local nonprofit, is implementing phase one of its marketing plan that consists of producing two brochures, one aimed at promoting Columbia as a livable community and the other as a destination for heritage tourists. The Greenway will be prominently featured in the community brochure as one of the quality-of-life benefits in our community.
- Columbia sits in the geographic center of what is soon to become the Lower Susquehanna Heritage Park Area. By combining this unique linear park with our rich history, architecture, and world-class museums, we can create a viable destination for people to enjoy while helping the region and the Borough reach their economic goals. Connecting the R&C to the proposed Intermunicipal Northwestern River Trail should assist in drawing additional tourists and new residents to this once industrially occupied river town.
- The potential exists for a 12-acre brownfields redevelopment adjacent to phase two of the Greenway. We are one of the priority sites to utilize funds Lancaster County received through an EPA brownfields pilot program to explore this concept. Given this site's proximity to the Greenway and surrounding neighborhoods, redevelopment of this site would not only assist the economy but would offer additional open space instead of the current brownfield.
- Economically and socially the Greenway project is already paying dividends. At one of the Borough Council meetings relating to the funding of the Master Plan, one of Columbia's most prominent business owners stated: "I have been involved in various initiatives that attempted to revitalize Columbia. This rail-trail project

Certificate of Service

I hereby certify service of the foregoing by US Mail postage prepaid first class
this 31st day of August 2001, upon the following counsel:

Andrew P. Goldstein, Esq.
McCarthy, Sweeney & Harkaway P.C.
2175 K St., N.W., Ste. 600
Washington, D.C. 20037 (for 1411 Corp. and M&H RR Co.)

Jeffery O. Morano, Esq.
Thomson Hine & Flory
1920 N. St., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20037 (for Sahd Salvage Center)

Paul R. Rosh