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November 10, 2015
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CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
CITY OF CHICAGO

November 10, 2015

VIA E-FILING

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

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 7.1 near Bryn Mawr Avenue, Chicago, to Milepost 9.5 near Touhy Avenue, Skokie, a Distance of 2.4 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 10, 2016.

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 this was extended and the most recent (ID# 44506) decision, served on July 20, 2015, the Board extended the NITU negotiating period to November 12, 2015 for the

FILING FEE WAIVED

segment from mileposts 7.1 to approximately milepost 8.4. (This length was reduced in response to UP's STB filing 238480.)

As noted in previous filings on this docket, CDOT (after delays beyond its control) has secured the services of a consultant team to conduct preliminary engineering and environmental studies and provide real estate acquisition services. Also as noted, due to past events beyond its control, we were delayed in getting a team under contract for these services. The team began work in August 2014 and has continued with surveying, title research, public meetings and other forms of data collection needed for the City to do due diligence in this acquisition.

Due to the revised termini of corridor in the UP petition, the City will need to reconsider the scope of work and consider alternative routes. Although the City had been making progress, it needs additional time to complete its trail engineering plan and conclude negotiations with UP.

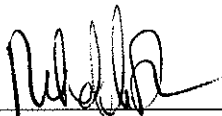
In support of its request for additional time, the City renews its Petition and its Statement of Willingness to Assume Financial Responsibility for the segment available under order STB order 44506 (The City continues to be interested in the segment withdrawn from abandonment in filing 238480, should it to become available again at a future date.)

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 10th day of November, 2015.

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:  

Rebekah Scheinfeld

Commissioner of Transportation