



Natural Resources Conservation Service
Indiana State Office
6013 Lakeside Boulevard
Indianapolis, IN 46278
317-290-3200

September 10, 2019

Laura E. Hoag
Norfolk Southern Corporation
Three Commercial Place
Norfolk, Virginia 23510-2191

Dear Ms. Hoag:

The proposed project to abandon a rail line (Sub-Number 403X) and remove the rail and track material from the existing roadbed in the Fort Wayne, Allen County, Indiana, as referred to in your letter received August 12, 2019, will not cause a conversion of prime farmland.

If you need additional information, please contact Daniel Phillips at 317-295-5871.

Sincerely,

JERRY RAYNOR Digitally signed by JERRY RAYNOR
Date: 2019.09.13 14:24:59 -04'00'

JERRY RAYNOR
State Conservationist

Helping People Help the Land.



USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.



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Laura E. Hoag
Norfolk Southern Corporation
Three Commercial Place
Norfolk, Virginia 23510-2191

Dear Ms. Hoag:

The proposed project to abandon a rail line and remove the rail and track material from the existing roadbed in the Fort Wayne, Allen County, Indiana, as referred to in your letter received August 7, 2019, will not cause a conversion of prime farmland.

If you need additional information, please contact Daniel Phillips at 317-295-5871.

Sincerely,

JERRY RAYNOR Digitally signed by JERRY RAYNOR
Date: 2019.09.13 11:09:55 -04'00'

JERRY RAYNOR
State Conservationist

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Division of Historic Preservation & Archaeology 402 W. Washington Street, W274 Indianapolis, IN 46204-2739
Phone 317-232-1646 Fax 317-232-0693 dhpa@dnr.IN.gov



September 4, 2019

Scott Plum, Manager
Strategic Planning – 12th Floor
Norfolk Southern Corporation
3 Commercial Place
Norfolk, VA 23510

Federal Agency: Surface Transportation Board

Re: Project information concerning the abandonment of 2.29 miles of rail line between Milepost GI 0.0 and
Milepost GI 2.29 (AB-290 SUB-NO. 403X; DHPA #24230)

Dear Mr. Plum:

Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (54 U.S.C. § 306108) and 36 C.F.R. Part 800, the staff of the Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer ("Indiana SHPO") has conducted an analysis of the materials dated August 6, 2019 and received on August 9, 2019, for the above indicated project in Fort Wayne, Allen County, Indiana.

In terms of archaeology, no currently known archaeological resources eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places have been recorded within the proposed project area. As we understand from the submission, there are no ground disturbing activities currently planned for the railroad, which dates to approximately 1870. If ground disturbance is to take place in the future, please be advised that not all railroad construction significantly disturbed the ground to deeper depths than the placement of the ballast and that there may be historic deposits associated with the railroad. Additional assessment of the railroad may be necessary at that time.

If any prehistoric or historic archaeological artifacts or human remains are uncovered during construction, demolition, or earthmoving activities, state law (Indiana Code 14-21-1-27 and 29) requires that the discovery must be reported to the Department of Natural Resources within two (2) business days. In that event, please call (317) 232-1646. Be advised that adherence to Indiana Code 14-21-1-27 and 29 does not obviate the need to adhere to applicable federal statutes and regulations, including but not limited to 36 C.F.R. 800.

In regard to buildings and structures, we have identified the following properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places within the probable area of potential effects:

Fort Wayne Park and Boulevard System Historic District, listed December 28, 2010
Saint Vincent Villa Historic District, listed June 10, 1994
Brookview-Irvington Park Historic District, listed March 21, 2011

However, based on the information provided to our office, we do not believe the characteristics that qualify the above identified historic properties for inclusion in the National Register will be diminished as a result of this project. Furthermore, we concur with Norfolk Southern Railroad's opinion that Bridge GI 2.18 nor the Line itself do not meet the criteria for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

Upon completion of all identification and evaluation efforts, seeking all necessary views on the effects, and gathering supporting documentation, then it will be appropriate for the Surface Transportation Board to analyze the information that has

been provided by the applicant or its consultant and consider the views of the Indiana SHPO, the general public, and any other consulting parties to make the necessary determinations and findings. Refer to the following comments for guidance:

- 1) If the Surface Transportation Board believes that a finding of "no adverse effect" accurately reflects its assessment, then it shall provide documentation of its finding as set forth in 36 C.F.R. § 800.11(e) to the Indiana SHPO, notify all consulting parties, and make the documentation available for public inspection (36 C.F.R. §§ 800.5[b-c] and 800.2[d][2]).
- 2) If, on the other hand, the Surface Transportation Board believes that a finding of "adverse effect" accurately reflects its assessment, then it shall provide notification to the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation by providing the documentation in 36 C.F.R. § 800.11(e) as stated in 36 C.F.R. § 800.6(a)(1). Additionally, the Surface Transportation Board may proceed to provide documentation of its finding as set forth in 36 C.F.R. § 800.11(e) to the Indiana SHPO, all consulting parties, and make the documentation available for public inspection and proceed to seek ways to avoid, reduce and mitigate effects as stated in 36 C.F.R. § 800.6 (a)(2-5).

A copy of the revised 36 C.F.R. Part 800 that went into effect on August 5, 2004, may be found on the Internet at www.achp.gov for your reference. If you have questions about archaeological issues please contact Rachel Sharkey at (317) 234-5254 or rsharkey@dnr.IN.gov. If you have questions about buildings or structures please contact Kim Marie Padgett at (317) 234-6705 or kpadgett@dnr.IN.gov. Additionally, in all future correspondence regarding the above indicated project, please refer to DHPA #24230.

Very truly yours,



Beth K. McCord
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

BKM:KMP:RAS:ras

cc: David C. Navecky, Environmental Protection Specialist, Surface Transportation Board