



CITY OF FRAMINGHAM

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August 8, 2023

Ms. Cynthia T. Brown
Chief, Section of Administration
Office of Proceedings
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
August 15, 2023
Part of
Public Record

**Re: Docket No. AB-565 (Sub-No. 1X), New York Central Lines, LLC—Abandonment
Exemption—In Middlesex County, Mass.**

Dear Ms. Brown:

The City of Framingham, Mass. (the "City") advises the Surface Transportation Board (the "Board") of its appreciation for CSX Transportation, Inc. ("CSXT") working with the City since 2001 to establish a trail over the 3.4-mile portion of the right-of-way between milepost QBS 0.00 at Framingham and milepost QBS 3.40 at the Framingham town line (the "Trail Line").

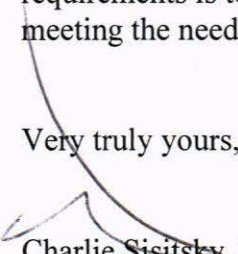
Since CSXT filed for authority to abandon the Trail Line on October 12, 2001, the City of Framingham, Massachusetts ("the City") has been working to acquire the Trail Line in order to complete a continuous multiuse path known as the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail that follows a 25-mile route of the former New Haven Railroad Framingham & Lowell rail line that would link the communities of Lowell, Chelmsford, Westford, Carlisle, Acton, Concord, Sudbury, and Framingham. However, funding for the City to acquire the Trail Line has been hard to procure, resulting in this delay.

After receiving the initial Notice of Interim Trail Use, throughout the years the City has requested and CSXT has agreed to numerous extensions of the NITU. Because of the City's ongoing inability to arrange for financing to acquire the Trail Line and the Board's decision to limit the number of negotiating extensions it would grant absent extraordinary circumstances, the City and CSXT discussed alternative arrangement to ensure that the Trail Line could become the extension of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail that the City wanted. The City and CSXT agreed that the Georgetown and High Line Railway Company, LLC ("GHL"), should request a NITU and enter a trail use agreement with CSXT, that could be transferred to the City in the future. The Board issued a NITU to GHL in a decision served on December 1, 2020. On February 22, 2021, CSXT and GHL notified that they had reached a trail use agreement.

On August 20th, 2021, the Chief Operating Office at the City of Framingham reached out to restart the negotiations to acquire the Trail Line because the City had procured readily available funding. On May 11th 2022 a Purchase Sale Agreement was sent to the City for review that would result in the NITU being transferred from GHL to the City. On March 8th, 2023 the City and CSXT were under contract. We expect to close in September of this year upon compliance with the requirements of 49 CFR 1152.29(f).

The creativity, ability, and willingness of CSXT to work with the City to complete the continuous multiuse path known as the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail by adding the Trail Line over this past decade despite through the City's financial issues and the Board's regulatory requirements is to be commended and should be viewed by the Board as a railroad properly meeting the needs of our community within the letter of the law and the Board's regulations.

Very truly yours,



Charlie Sisitsky, Mayor
City of Framingham

LAW OFFICES OF
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August 15, 2023

Ms. Cynthia T. Brown
Chief of the Section of Administration, Office of Proceedings
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, D. C. 20423

RE: **STB Docket AB-565 (Sub-No. 1X), New York Central Lines, LLC—
*Abandonment Exemption—in Middlesex County, Mass.***

Dear Ms. Brown:

On August 9, 2023, I filed a letter in this proceeding on behalf of the City of Framingham. Concurrent with the filing, I electronically served a copy of the letter on parties of record as evidenced by the attached email. I certify that I served the letter dated August 8, 2023 on all parties of record.

I certify that a copy of this letter has been served on all parties of record.

Thank you for your assistance. If you have any questions please call or email me.

Sincerely yours,

Louis E. Gitomer

Louis E. Gitomer

Attachment

Lou Gitomer

From: Lou Gitomer
Sent: Wednesday, August 9, 2023 11:41 AM
To: Townmanager@Sudbury.MA.US; mayor@framinghamma.gov;
Valentem@Town.Sudbury.MA.US; suedmeyerb@sudbury.ma.us;
bilodeaum@sudbury.ma.us; dick156@Earthlink.Net; Selectmen@Framinghamma.Gov;
Selectmen@Framinghamma.Gov
Subject: AB-565 (Sub-No. 1X)
Attachments: FraminghamLetter.pdf

Attached is a letter filed with the STB on behalf of the City of Framingham. Let me know if you have any questions. Lou

Louis E. Gitomer

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