



CITY OF GREENWOOD

HARRY L. SMITH
Mayor

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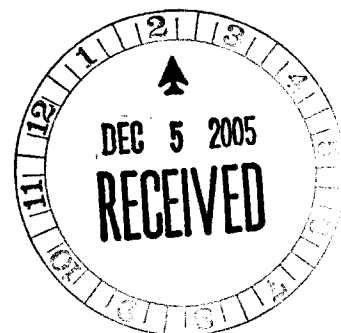
December 2, 2005

Honorable Vernon A. Williams, Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
Mercury Building #711
1925 K Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

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Re: STB Docket No. AB 297 (Sub-No. 102X)

Dear Mr. Williams:

As Mayor of the City of Greenwood, Mississippi I am authorized by the City Council to request, pursuant to 49 U.S.C. §10905, that a public use condition be applied in the captioned proceeding to allow the finalization of a public project that requires the transfer of the property subject to the captioned abandonment exemption to the City Greenwood. There is a high level of confidence that the property transactions necessary to the exchange of the abandonment property for railroad property currently owned by the City can be completed within sixty (60) days from the date of publication of the Notice of Abandonment Exemption in the Federal Register.

About five years ago conversations were initiated with various community organizations, including the Leflore County Board of Supervisors and the Greenwood-Leflore Industrial Board centered on the possibility of eliminating train movements through the center of Greenwood and converting the abandoned rail properties to used more in keeping with the public needs and safety of our community. The entire process to date has been positive because of the cooperation between C&G and the City of Greenwood, Leflore County, Mississippi, Mississippi Department of Transportation and our Congressional delegation.

The Columbus and Greenville Railway Company's (C&G) main line tracks currently run East and West through the central part of the City of Greenwood. The tracks run from their intersection with the Canadian National Railroad Company mainline tracks westerly to their intersection with U.S. Highway 82 and 49 East. As shown on the attached plat, the current C&G tracks run directly to the south of the central business district and through a residential district containing schools, parks and other public facilities. Along this length of track there are a total of thirteen (13) grade crossings. The track covered by the captioned Notice of Exemption covers eleven (11) of those crossings. There has been a significant improvement in the movement of vehicular traffic since the C&G mainline movements, under an easement agreement,

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have been rerouted to a City-owned bypass track as a result of Exemption from regulation in STB Finance Docket No. 34666.

The property to be abandoned by C&G and conveyed to the City for public use is shown on the attached plat. The City intends to utilize the abandoned rail properties for the construction of a new road or parkway providing a new direct route to the downtown central business district from the Highway 82 bypass. This roadway, when constructed, will be instrumental in the continued revitalization of our downtown business area, but will encourage growth in the residential areas between downtown and the Highway 82 West bypass. The roadway will provide a new access to the Greenwood High School and Middle School Complex and also to the city-owned property adjacent to the school complex that will be utilized as a continuing education center.

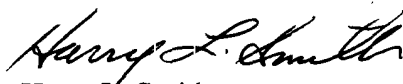
The planned roadway design, where possible, will contain sidewalks which will connect the residential areas adjacent to the parkway to both the school complex and the city parks, making it more convenient for our citizens to access these areas on foot, bicycle and wheel chair.

The City now needs to complete the transaction with the C&G. The City is prepared to take complete financial responsibility for the C&G property that will be transferred to it. The imposition of a public use condition will facilitate the timely finalization of the first stage of this major project. Every effort has been made to conform this request to the requirements of 49 C.F.R. §1152.28. However if there is a need for additional information contact should be made with the City's attorney, Mr. Billy Bowman at:

107 West Market Street
Post Office Drawer B
Greenwood, MS 38935-0706
(662) 453-3445

Pursuant to this Board's filing requirements, an original and ten copies of this letter have been enclosed. An envelope, stamped and addressed to Mr. Bowman, is included to allow the return of a received-stamped extra copy to his office.

Yours truly,



Harry L. Smith
Mayor, City of Greenwood

Copy:

C&G Railway Company
201 19th Street, North
P.O. Box 6000
Columbus, MS 39703

