

COVINGTON & BURLING

1201 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20004-2401
TEL 202.662.6000
FAX 202.662.6291
WWW.COV.COM

WASHINGTON
NEW YORK
SAN FRANCISCO
LONDON
BRUSSELS

CAROLYN F. CORWIN
TEL 202.662.5338
FAX 202.778.5338
CCORWIN@COV.COM

207028

January 10, 2003



BY HAND

Honorable Vernon Williams
Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, NW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings

JAN 10 2003

Part of
Public Record

Re: Docket No. AB-167 (Sub No. 1094)A - Chelsea Property Owners -- Abandonment -- Portion of the Consolidated Rail Corporation's West 30th Street Secondary Track in New York, NY

Dear Secretary Williams:

We write to advise the Board that Friends of the High Line, Inc. ("Friends") endorses the efforts of the City of New York to obtain an agreement for trail use of the High Line, as described in the City's Reply filed on December 17, 2002, in this proceeding. Friends hopes to play a role in the continuing effort to develop a satisfactory plan for trail use of the High Line.¹ If the City is able to obtain and implement a satisfactory agreement on trail use, this could make it unnecessary to decide the issues raised in Friends' Petition to Reopen, filed with the Board on August 16, 2002, in this proceeding.

¹ Negotiation of a trail use agreement and implementation of interim trail use may proceed without issuance of a CITU where abandonment proceedings have not been completed. See *Union Pacific R.R. -- Abandonment -- Wallace Branch, ID*, STB Docket No. AB-33 (Sub-No. 70) (served Nov. 15, 1996).

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Friends therefore notes that the Board may wish to suspend consideration of the Petition to Reopen while the City, the railroad, and other appropriate parties pursue further negotiations. If the parties ultimately advise the Board that they are unable to reach an agreement, the Board could then resume consideration of the Petition.

Respectfully submitted,



Carolyn F. Corwin
Kimberly K. Egan

*Attorneys for Friends of the
High Line, Inc.*

cc: Attached Service List

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing letter are being served this 10th day of January, 2003, by first-class mail, postage prepaid, or hand-delivery, upon the following persons:

John Broadley
John Broadley & Associates, PC
1054 31st Street NW
Suite 200
Washington, DC 20007

Scott N. Stone
Patton Boggs, LLP
2550 M Street NW
Washington, DC 20037

Joseph T. Gunn
Senior Counsel
New York City Law Department
100 Church Street
New York, NY 10007

Anthony P. Semancik
Metropolitan Transportation Authority
347 Madison Avenue
New York, NY 10017

John F. Guinan
New York Department of Transportation
Albany, NY 12232

Elizabeth Bradford
General Counsel
New York Convention Center
Development Corporation
655 W. 34th Street
New York, NY 10001

Charles A. Spitulnik
McLeod, Watkinson & Miller
Eighth Floor
One Massachusetts Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20001

Peter J. Shudtz
CSX Corporation
One James Center
901 East Cary Street
Richmond, VA 23219

Dennis G. Lyons
Arnold & Porter
555 Twelfth Street NW
Suite 940
Washington, DC 20004-1206

Robert M. Jenkins III
Adrian L. Steel, Jr.
Mayer, Brown, Rowe & Maw
1909 K Street NW
Washington, DC 20006

Jonathan M. Broder
Consolidated Rail Corporation
2 Commerce Square
2001 Market Street
Philadelphia, PA 19101-1416


Carolyn F. Corwin