

DATE: December 13, 2006

RE: STB Docket No. AB-290 (Sub-No. 286)

FROM: Judith A Robert, Ph.D. and Thomas J. Kapacinskas, J.D., N.C. Psy.A.
1739 Riverside Drive
South Bend, IN 46616-1659

We recommend that the Surface Transportation Board support the application by the City of South Bend, et.al., requesting the that the Board authorize the abandonment of 3.7 miles of railroad lines owned by Norfolk Southern Railway Company.

We live one-half mile from this railway line and feel that this line should be abandoned in favor of development of a sewer line and Multipurpose Recreation Trail along this track. This railway line has not been in use for ten years and during this time developments have taken place in our neighborhood which favor the development of a sewer line and recreation trail. First of all, the city began a program this year to separate the rainstorm sewers from the regular sewer systems and the abandonment of the track would allow the city to continue to upgrade our sewer system which overflows during storms and pollutes the St. Joseph River, one of our city's most important assets. Second, this fall 2006 the city began the construction of the Riverside Trail multipurpose recreation trail which begins just north of this railway line. If this railway track were developed into a recreation trail, it would connect two major recreation trails which run through downtown South Bend, connecting many neighborhoods, schools, colleges and parks. The train trestle which has been boarded up for several years and which runs over the St. Joseph River would provide a scenic bridge for all the community to enjoy as part of a larger recreational trail system being developed.

Certificate of Service. I verify that I sent, via e-mail copies of this document to the following persons at the following e-mail addresses. jjankows@SouthBendIN.gov and richard.streeter@BTLaw.com.