



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Environmental Analysis

October 31, 2024

Tina Marie Osceola
 THPO
 30290 Josie Billie Highway, Pmb 1004
 Clewiston, FL 33440

By email at tinaosceola@semitribe.com

RE: Docket No. FD 36723, Savannah Industrial Logistics, LLC – Construction Exemption & Docket No. FD 36723 (Sub-No. 1), Savannah Industrial Transportation LLC (SIT) – Lease and Operation Exemption – Line of Savannah Industrial Logistics, LLC in Effingham County, Ga.; Preliminary Environmental Consultation

Tina Marie Osceola:

Pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 10502 and the Surface Transportation Board’s (Board) decision in Savannah Indus. Transp., LLC—Operation Exemption—in Effingham Cnty., Ga., FD 36489, (STB served Aug. 1, 2023) (August Decision), Savannah Industrial Logistics, LLC (SIL) filed for after-the-fact authority to construct a rail line (the Line) in Docket No. FD 36723, and Savannah Industrial Transportation, LLC (SIT), an affiliate of SIL, filed for after-the-fact authority to lease and operate the same Line in Docket No. 36723 (Sub-No. 1).¹ The Line, which is located in an industrial park near Rincon, in Effingham County, Georgia, has no mileposts and extends from a connection with Norfolk Southern Railway Company (NSR) near NSR milepost 16.6 to a connection with CSX Transportation, Inc. (CSXT), near CSXT milepost S484.0, a distance of approximately 11,404 feet. (See Attachment 1: Maps).

Before making its decision on whether to grant this authority, the Board must consider the potential environmental impacts of SIL and SIT’s construction and lease and operation proposals, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. §§ 4321-4370m-11), the Board’s environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. Part 1105, and related environmental laws,

¹ The Board determined that because the Line was already being operated as a “rail line” within the Board’s jurisdiction, SIL should have gotten prior approval from the Board to construct and operate the Line. See August Decision at 2-3. The Board, therefore, directed SIL to file for construction authority under 49 U.S.C. § 10901 or § 10502 after the fact. The Board further found that SIT should have sought Board authority prior to acquiring the Line through its lease agreement with SIL. Id. at 6. Accordingly, the Board instructed SIT to seek acquisition authority under 49 U.S.C. 10901 or 10502 after the fact.

including Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) (54 U.S.C. § 306108). The Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) will prepare environmental documentation to analyze the potential environmental and historic impacts of the after-the-fact construction, lease and operation of the Line. The purpose of this letter is to advise you of the proposals, request information on the resources under your jurisdiction that could be affected, identify any permits and approvals that could be required, and identify any other concerns you may have.

Background

The Line already exists because it was constructed in the latter half of 2020 and leased without the requisite Board authority. The Line currently serves one shipper in the industrial park. In the August Decision, the Board specifically allowed SIT to continue its current operations to the existing shipper on the Line pending a final decision from the Board on whether to authorize the after-the-fact construction and lease and operation. SIT has recently filed for authority from the Board to add three additional shippers.

SIT currently operates two trains a day, 5 days per week on the Line. SIL and SIT forecast that the number of trains per day and level of service over the Line, post authorization, would increase to four trains a day, 5 days per week.

Additional background information can be found in the Board's decisions in Docket Nos. 36489, 36723, and 36723 (Sub-No. 1). These decisions and related filings can be found on the Board's website at www.stb.gov.

Request for Comments

OEA requests your comments within 30 days and no later than **November 30, 2024**. All comments and filings can be submitted electronically through the Board's website at www.stb.gov. To submit an environmental comment, select "File an Environmental Comment" (below the "Need Assistance?" button) on the Board's home page. Please make sure to refer to **Docket Nos. FD 36723 and FD 36723 (Sub-No. 1)** in all correspondence, including e-filings, addressed to the Board. Brief comments can be typed in the comment field provided, and lengthier comments can be attached as Word, Adobe Acrobat, or other file formats. Commenters are strongly encouraged to submit comments via the Board's e-filing system.

You may also send written comments to Karen Stevens, OEA's Project Manager, by mail to:

Karen Stevens
Surface Transportation Board, OEA
Docket Nos. FD 36723 and FD 36723 (Sub-No. 1)
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

We look forward to hearing from you. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Karen Stevens at 202-245-0304 or by email at Karen.Stevens@stb.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Danielle Gosselin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Danielle" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Gosselin".

Danielle Gosselin
Director
Office of Environmental Analysis

Enclosure:
Attachment 1: Maps

Figure 1: Project Overview Map

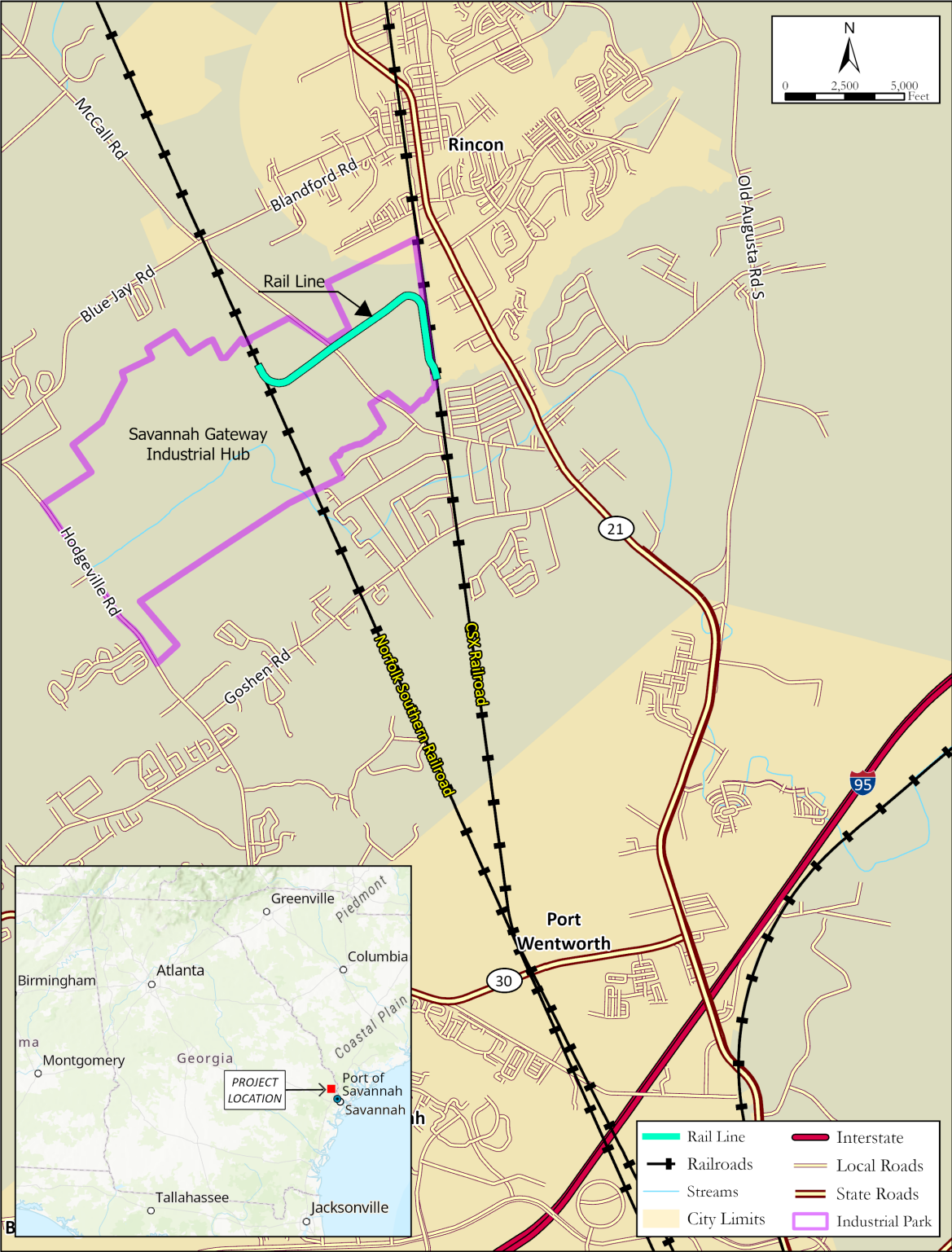
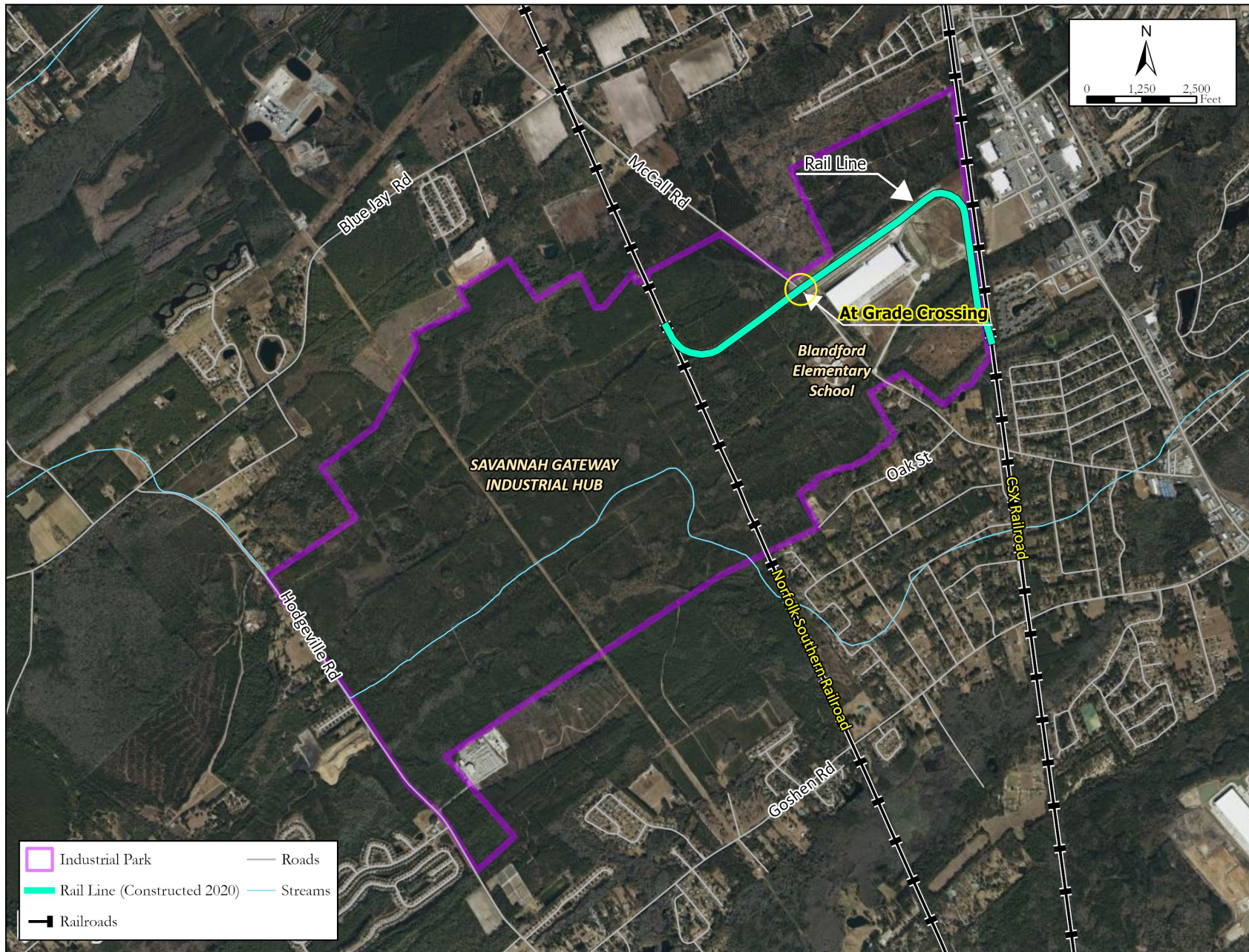


Figure 2: Project Location Map – Effingham County, Georgia





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October 31, 2024

Marcellus Osceola
Chairman
6300 Stirling Road
Hollywood, FL 33024

By email at chairman@semitribe.com

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Director
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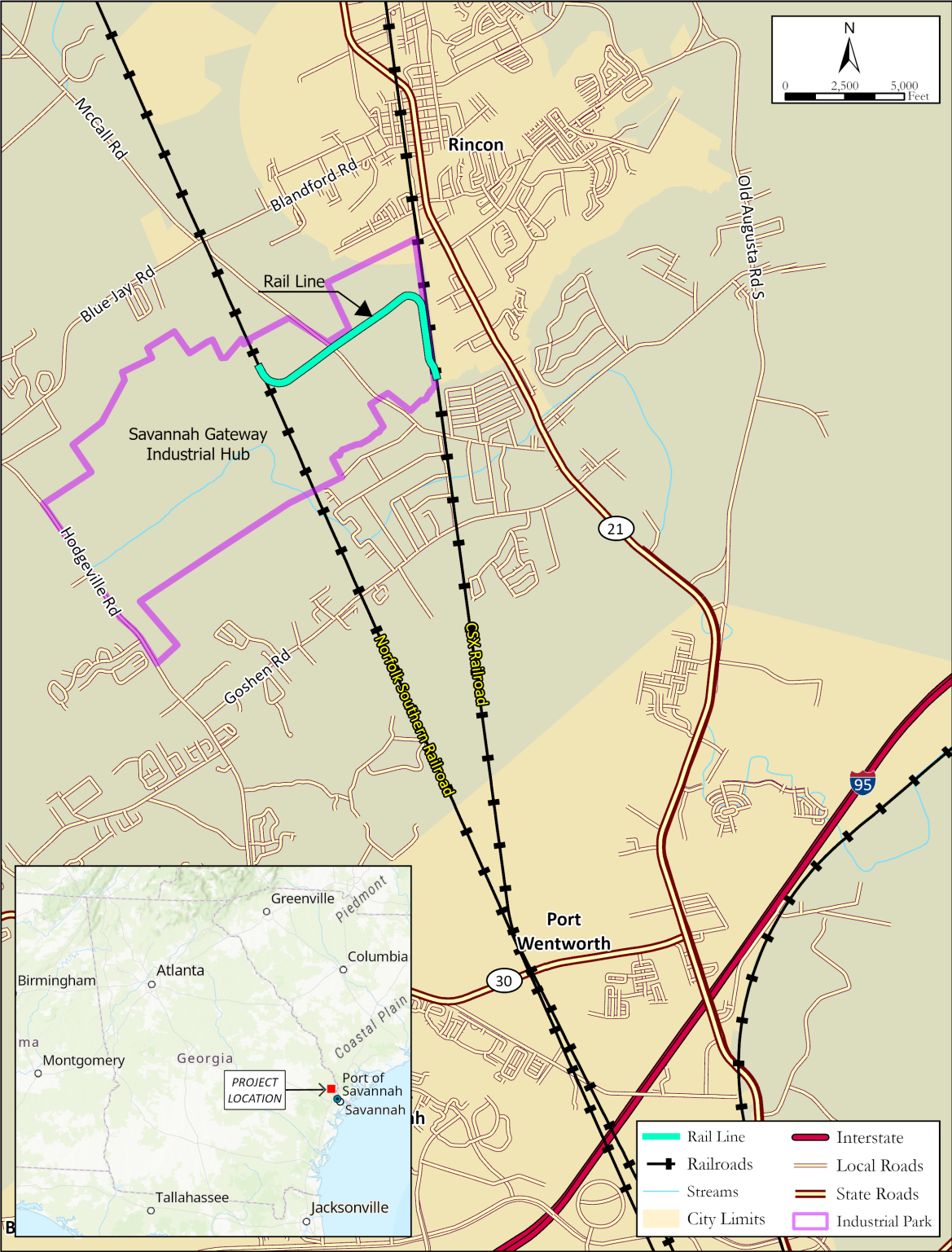


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