



March 6, 2017

Ms. Victoria Rutson

Director of Environmental Analysis and Federal Preservation Officer

Surface Transportation Board Office of Environmental Analysis

385 E Street, NW

Washington, D C 20016

Re: AB_167_1189_X and related dockets—Endorsements of Embankment Preservation Coalition Online Comment in Reference to NHPA Section 106 Review

Dear Ms. Rutson:

To facilitate public comment related to the National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 review being conducted by your agency, our organization placed a comment online at www.change.org for public review and endorsements by preservation supporters.

As of March 6, 2017, this Coalition online comment had received more than 2350 endorsements and continues to gather signatures. Many endorsers also added a personal comment to ours. We are now enclosing, for your convenience,

1. A copy of the Embankment Preservation Coalition comment
2. Signatures and addresses of the more than 2350 endorsers, as of March 6, 2017
3. Personal remarks that some endorsers chose to add to the Coalition comment in Item 1

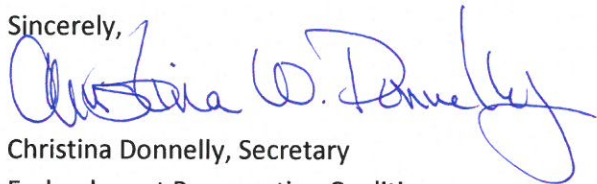
We ask that you accept this material, which supplements letters and signers of comments from more than 700 individuals and organizations filed on your web site in 2016, as evidence of the strong current public support for preservation of the historic Harsimus Branch and its Embankment. Especially when considered with the over 3,700 comments (from 1,303 commenters)¹ that your agency received on its Environmental Assessment in 2009, before the abandonment process was suspended while litigation was pursued in the courts, this recent activity demonstrates how deep and abiding public concern is for this historic right-of-way.

¹ ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENTS SUPPORT FOR CULTURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY AND CONSULTATION IN THE SURFACETRANSPORTATION BOARD'S CASE Docket No. AB 167 (Sub-No. 1189X) Consolidated Rail Corporation Abandonment Exemption in Jersey City Hudson County, New Jersey, January 8, 2016. This analysis covers only environmental comments received during a review period for an Environmental Assessment in 2009. Individuals, businesses, and members of the following supporting organizations weighed in: 69 Erie Street, LLC, 93 Erie Condominium Association, Brunswick Community Garden, Civic JC, Conklin Costantin Architects, LLP, Downtown Jersey City Watch, East Coast Greenway Alliance, East Coast Greenway Alliance, New Jersey Committee, Embankment Preservation Coalition, Friends of Liberty State Park, Friends of the High Line, Grace Community Services, Hamilton Park Neighborhood Association, Harsimus Cove Association of Jersey City, Heights Hope Neighborhood Association, Hilltop Neighborhood Association, Hudson County Genealogical & Historical Society, Hudson County Hispanic Coalition, Jersey City Reservoir Preservation Alliance, Jersey City Waterfront Parks Conservancy, Jersey City & Harsimus Cemetery, Jersey City Landmarks Conservancy, Lambda Sigma Upsilon Latino Social Fellowship, Latinos Siempre Unidos, Let's Get Dirty Together, New Jersey Bicycle Club, New Jersey Bike & Walk Coalition, Newport Neighborhood Association, Palisades Nature Association, Pershing Field Garden Friends, Powerhouse Arts District Neighborhood Association, Preservation New Jersey, Pro Arts, Jersey City P.S. #8 Neighborhood Block Association, Regional Plan Association, Riverview Neighborhood Association, Talking Politics (TV Show), Village Neighborhood Association.

the embankment

We note that the Embankment historic site was also recognized in a 2011 invitational contest, "This Place Matters," sponsored by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. NTHP selected one hundred worthy historic sites from around the country to compete for monetary awards. The public then voted on the places that meant the most to them. The Embankment site garnered more than 3000 votes, coming in seventh out of the hundred participants. We believe such a showing is extraordinary given that the Embankment historic right of way and structure is not currently accessible to the public. An employee of the first-place winner, Newport Cottages in Rhode Island, for example, informed us that it has 3000 visitors per day and assisted its visitors in the rather complicated voting process.

Sincerely,



Christina Donnelly, Secretary
Embankment Preservation Coalition
250 Fifth St
Jersey City, NJ 07302

Copies to:

Mayor Steven Fulop
Council President Rolando Lavarro
Councilwoman-at-large Joyce Watterman
Councilman-at-large Daniel Rivera
Ward A Councilman Frank Gajewski
Ward B Councilman Chris L. Gadsden
Ward C Councilman Richard Boggiano
Ward D Councilman Michael Yun
Ward E Councilwoman Candice Osborne
Ward F Councilman Jermaine Robinson