

Assenza, Adam

From: Kachadoorian, Lydia (FRA) <lydia.kachadoorian@dot.gov>
Sent: Thursday, July 26, 2018 9:44 AM
To: Rutson, Vicki
Cc: Gosselin, Danielle; Assenza, Adam; Brown, Sandra; jbeckett thebeckettgroup.org; krdetrolio@portofmoseslake.com; Sterner, Matthew (DAHP); Allyson.Brooks@dahp.wa.gov; jbishop@portofmoseslake.com; mmiller@portofmoseslake.com; bpetersen@portofmoseslake.com; Kniss, Valarie (FRA); Zeringue, Katherine (FRA); Shick, Laura (FRA)
Subject: FRA request to STB - S106 Lead Federal Agency, NCBRP Port of Moses Lake, FY17 INFRA/Docket No. FD 34936
Attachments: Port of Moses Lake_NCBRP_INFRA2017_FRA to STB_Section 106 lead signed 7-....pdf
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed
Categories: FOR ECT

Dear Ms. Ruston,

Attached you will find a request from the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) to the Surface Transportation Board (STB). FRA requests that STB continue to serve as the lead federal agency for purposes of compliance with Section 106 for the Northern Columbia Basin Railroad Project (NCBRP) co-sponsored by the Port of Moses Lake in Grant County, Washington. Designation of a lead federal agency is allowed under the Section 106 regulations in 36 CFR 800.2(a)(2).

Please provide written confirmation that STB will continue to function as the lead federal agency for this undertaking and let us know how we can support your efforts. We very much appreciate STB's past role in this proposed project and look forward to working with you and our Port of Moses Lake grant applicant in the future.

Sincerely,

Lydia Kachadoorian, Registered Professional Archaeologist 15668
Environmental Protection Specialist – Northeastern & Western Regions

*U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Railroad Administration
 Office of Railroad Policy and Development (RPD-1), Office of Program Delivery (RPD-10)
 Environmental and Corridor Planning Division (RPD-13)*

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U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Railroad
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

July 25, 2018

Ms. Victoria Rutson
Director, Office of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Re: Northern Columbia Basin Railroad Project (FRA INFRA 2017 Grant/Docket No. FD 34936), Port of Moses Lake, Grant County, Washington; Section 106 Lead Federal Agency Designation

Dear Ms. Rutson,

As you are aware, the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) is providing funding under the Fiscal Year 2017 Infrastructure Rebuilding America (INFRA) Grant Program to the Port of Moses Lake ("Port") for the Northern Columbia Basin Railroad Project ("NCBRP") located in Grant County, Washington. The USDOT's Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) is administering the grant. Total project costs are estimated to be approximately \$30 million, with an anticipated USDOT contribution of \$9.9 million. The INFRA grant funding is for final design/engineering and construction and related activities.

The eleven-mile-long NCBRP consists of the following:

- Segment 1 = Re-routing aging rail infrastructure inside Moses Lake to a new, approximately 5-mile long line along the Wheeler Industrial Corridor, between Wheeler and Parker Horn.
- Segment 2 = Construction of three miles of new rail lines to access industrial lands adjacent to the Grant County International Airport (GCIA).
- Segment 3 = Upgrades to three miles of existing rail line between Parker Horn and the GCIA.

The construction, acquisition, and operation of common carrier rail lines must be authorized by the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") pursuant to 49 USC § 10901. In 2009 the Port worked with your agency to finalize an Environmental Assessment ("EA") in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act and entered into a Programmatic Agreement ("PA") pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (Section 106) with STB, the Washington Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation which serves as the State Historic Preservation Office, the Washington Department of Transportation, and the Columbia Basin Railroad Company. As a result of these efforts the Port successfully obtained STB's authorization to initiate the NCBRP; however, at that time funding was not available for additional engineering or construction.

Over the last decade portions of the proposed NCBRP have been modified and FRA understands that STB intends to issue a Supplemental EA and amend the August 27, 2009 PA to include a modified Area of Potential Effect and new Sunset Clause. In addition to those revisions, FRA requests to be invited as a signatory to the amended PA.

FRA recognizes that STB has been the lead federal agency for past Section 106 compliance efforts related to the NCBRP for over a decade. Therefore, by way of this letter, FRA requests that STB continue to serve as the lead federal agency for purposes of compliance with Section 106 for the NCBRP. Designation of a lead federal agency is allowed under the Section 106 regulations at 36 CFR 800.2(a)(2).

Please contact Ms. Lydia Kachadoorian, FRA Environmental Protection Specialist, at (617) 494-3989 or lydia.kachadoorian@dot.gov if you have any questions about the project or this request, and to confirm the STB's role as the lead agency for Section 106.

Sincerely,



Laura A. Shick
Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist
U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Railroad Administration
Office of Railroad Policy and Development
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

cc: Danielle Gosselin, STB
Adam Assenza, STB
Lydia Kachadoorian, FRA
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Matthew Sterner, DAHP
Jeff Bishop, Port of Moses Lake
Milton Miller, Port of Moses Lake
Sandy Brown, Thompson Hine LLP
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