



**Your Safety • Your Mobility
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IDAHO TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT
600 W. Prairie Ave. • Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815-8764
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301099

September, 16, 2020

Gabriel S. Meyer
Surface Transportation Board
Office of Public Assistance, Governmental Affairs & Compliance
Rail Customer & Public Assistance program1 So. Pyramid Way

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
September 21, 2020
Part of
Public Record
AB_33_346_X

Re: State Highway 41 UPRR "Feeley" Industrial Spur Abandonment

Dear Mr. Meyer:

The Idaho Transportation Department highly supports abandonment of the Union Pacific Railroad Coeur D'Alene Industrial "Feeley" Spur to accommodate the State Highway 41 expansion project. These enhancements will improve safety, corridor functionality and reduce delay to commercial freight movements as well as local and commuter traffic.

In the spring of 2020, the department began the expansion project of State Highway 41 to a four lane with divided median facility. The Department is in favor of the abandonment of the industrial spur which would remove four at grade public rail crossings including one that traverses the SH 41 corridor project between Prairie Avenue and Lancaster Rd., the project limits, as well as the at-grade crossings at Prairie Avenue, Meyer Rd., one private crossing, and three future public at-grade rail crossings upon build-out of the local road system proposed by the City of Post Falls.

Abandonment of the "Feeley" Spur would also allow for further the expansion of Prairie Avenue, which is currently on the National Highway System (NHS) register servicing east/west users between Post Falls and US 95 in Coeur D'Alene/Hayden. As well as continuation of the Prairie Trail Shared Use Path System which starts in Coeur D'Alene and runs northwest 4 miles across town linking parks, schools, neighborhoods and businesses ending at Huetter Road, along the same "Feeley" Spur railroad grade we are in support of UPRR abandoning.

The Department is also in the process of constructing a grade separation for UPRR mainline north on the highway to improve corridor functionality and reduce delay to commercial freight movements as well as local and commuter traffic. Approval to abandon the industrial lead is crucial to the functionality of the highway system and critical to the multi-modal transportation plan envisioned by the Department, Federal Highway Administration, MPO, Cities and local road authorities.

The department respectfully requests that the Surface Transportation Board take this critical abandonment into consideration as well as expedite the process for purposes of the construction of the state highway system on this critical freight corridor. If I can be of further assistance in making this necessary abandonment please contact me.

Sincerely,


Damon L. Allen, P.E.
District Engineer
Idaho Transportation Department



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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that I have, on September 21, 2020, served copies of this Petition for Reconsideration on all parties of record in this proceeding.

William J. Roberson
Idaho Transportation Department
Program Manager