



HPO Project No. 17-2254-1
HPO- J2017-003

State of New Jersey

MAIL CODE 501-04B

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

NATURAL & HISTORIC RESOURCES

HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

P.O. Box 420

Trenton, NJ 08625-0420

TEL. (609) 984-0176 FAX (609) 984-0578

CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor

BOB MARTIN
Commissioner

KIM GUADAGNO
Lt. Governor

October 2, 2017

LaWada Poarch
Norfolk Southern Corporation
3 Commercial Place, Box 207
Norfolk, VA 23510

Dear Ms. Poarch:

As Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer for New Jersey, in accordance with 36 CFR Part 800: Protection of Historic Properties, as published in the Federal Register on December 12, 2000 (65 FR 77725-77739) and amended on July 6, 2004 (69 FR 40553-40555), I am providing Section 106 consultation comments on the following proposed undertaking:

**Essex County, Township of Bloomfield and City of Newark
Abandonment and Discontinuance of Service
Portion of the Former Erie Railroad's Orange Branch Rail Line
Surface Transportation Board**

Thank you for contacting the New Jersey Historic Preservation Office (NJ HPO) concerning Norfolk Southern Corporation's proposed abandonment and discontinuance of service for a portion of the former Erie Railroad's Orange Branch rail line, which was originally developed as the Watchung Branch of the New York & Greenwood Lake Railroad. It is my understanding that Norfolk Southern Corporation will abandon two small segments that you own (between mileposts 8.5 and 8.616, and between mileposts 9.905 and 10.5) and discontinue use of the portion between mileposts 8.616 and 9.905 that is owned by NJ TRANSIT.

Based on the information you submitted on August 9, 2017, supplemented with additional material on September 8, 2017 and further material provided by NJ TRANSIT, it is my opinion in accordance with 36 CFR §800.4, that the proposed undertaking will have no effect on historic resources listed on or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

Thank you again for providing the opportunity to review and comment on the potential for the above-referenced undertaking to affect historic properties. Please reference the HPO project number 17-2254 in any future calls, emails, submission or written correspondence to help expedite your review and response. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Meghan Baratta of my staff at (609) 292-1253 or Meghan.Baratta@dep.nj.gov.

Sincerely,



Katherine J. Marcopul
Deputy State Historic
Preservation Officer

KJM/MMB/NZ

C: Victoria Rutson
Chief, Section of Environmental Analysis
Federal Preservation Officer
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Room 1106
Washington, DC 20423