

**HARKINS CUNNINGHAM LLP**  
*Attorneys at Law*

308236

Paul A. Cunningham  
(202) 415-4026  
[pac@harkinscunningham.com](mailto:pac@harkinscunningham.com)

1750 K Street, N.W.  
Suite 300  
Washington, D.C. 20006-3804  
Telephone 202.415.4026

ENTERED  
Office of Proceedings  
April 23, 2024  
Part of  
Public Record

April 23, 2024

Ms. Cynthia T. Brown  
Chief of the Section of Administration, Office of Proceedings  
Surface Transportation Board  
395 E St. S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20423

**Re: Docket No. AB 1332\_0\_X Athens Transportation Partners, LLC – Abandonment  
Exemption – In Clarke County, GA**

Dear Ms. Brown:

Enclosed for electronic filing is Athens Transportation Partners, LLC's ("ATP") Verified Notice of Exemption for the abandonment of an approximately six and one half mile-long rail line that runs from the northern end of the Oconee River trestle bridge in Athens-Clarke County at approximate milepost F-MP 98.8 to approximate milepost F-MP 105.3 in the north near East Broad Street in Athens, Clarke County, Georgia.

The required filing fee of \$4,700 has been paid via pay.gov.

Please do not hesitate to contact me or [bmc@harkinscunningham.com](mailto:bmc@harkinscunningham.com) with any questions.

Sincerely,



Paul A. Cunningham

*Counsel for Athens  
Transportation Partners,  
LLC*

FEE RECEIVED  
April 23, 2024  
Surface  
Transportation Board

FILED  
April 23, 2024  
Surface  
Transportation Board

**BEFORE THE  
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD**

---

**Docket No. AB 1332\_0\_X**

---

**ATHENS TRANSPORTATION PARTNERS, LLC  
– ABANDONMENT EXEMPTION –  
IN CLARKE COUNTY, GA**

---

**Verified Notice of Exemption**

Paul A. Cunningham  
HARKINS CUNNINGHAM LLP  
1750 K St. N.W., Suite 300  
Washington, D.C. 20006  
(202) 973-7601  
[pac@harkinscunningham.com](mailto:pac@harkinscunningham.com)

*Counsel for Athens Transportation Partners, LLC*

Dated: April 23, 2024

**BEFORE THE  
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD**

---

**Docket No. AB 1332\_0\_X**

---

**ATHENS TRANSPORTATION PARTNERS, LLC  
– ABANDONMENT EXEMPTION –  
IN CLARKE COUNTY, GA**

---

**Verified Notice of Exemption**

Athens Transportation Partners, LLC (“ATP”) submits this verified Notice of Exemption pursuant to 49 CFR § 1152.50 for an exempt abandonment of an approximately six and one-half mile long segment of rail line running from the northern end of the Oconee River trestle bridge in Athens-Clarke County at approximate milepost F-MP 98.8 (33°52’30.49”N, 83°21’28.11”W) to approximate milepost F-MP 105.3 (33°57’30.23”N, 83°22’14.95”W) in the north near East Broad Street in Athens, Clarke County, Georgia (the “ATP Line” or “Line”).

**Proposed Consummation Date (49 CFR § 1152.50(d)(2))**

The ATP Line’s abandonment will be consummated, at the earliest, on June 12, 2024, which is at least 50 days after filing this Notice of Exemption.

**49 CFR § 1152.50(b) Certification**

ATP certifies that no local or overhead traffic has moved over the Line for at least nine years. ATP further certifies that no formal complaint filed by a user of rail service on the Line (or a state or local government entity acting on behalf of such user) regarding cessation of service over the Line either is pending with the Surface Transportation Board (the “Board”) or any U.S. District Court or has been decided in favor of the complainant within the last nine years.

**Information Required by 49 CFR §§ 1152.22(a)(1)–(4), (7) and (8), and (e)(4)**

(a) General.

- (1) The railroad's exact name is Athens Transportation Partners, LLC ("ATP").
- (2) ATP is a common carrier by railroad subject to 49 U.S.C. Subtitle IV, chapter 105.
- (3) ATP intends to abandon its Line, which runs from the northern end of the Oconee River trestle bridge in Athens-Clarke County at approximate milepost F-MP 98.8 (33°52'30.49"N, 83°21'28.11"W) to approximate milepost F-MP 105.3 (33°57'30.23"N, 83°22'14.95"W) in the north near East Broad Street in Athens, Clarke County, Georgia. Prior to ATP's acquisition of the Line, service over the Line had been discontinued by the prior owner.
- (4) A map showing the exact location of the rail line to be abandoned and its relation to other rail lines in the area, highways, water routes, and population centers is attached as Exhibit B. As shown in Exhibit B: (1) in 1988, service was discontinued from F-MP 75.5 (near Madison, Georgia) to F-MP 91.5 (Bishop, Georgia); and (2) in 2019, service was discontinued from F-MP 91.5 (Bishop, Georgia) to F-MP 105.3 (the northern terminus of the Line).
- (7) The representatives to whom correspondence regarding this abandonment should be sent are:

Paul A. Cunningham  
Harkins Cunningham LLP  
1750 K St. NW, Suite 300  
Washington, D.C. 20006  
[pac@harkinscunningham.com](mailto:pac@harkinscunningham.com)

Brett Chapdelaine  
[bmc@harkinscunningham.com](mailto:bmc@harkinscunningham.com)

- (8) The Line traverses U.S. Postal Service Zip Codes 30601, 30602, and 30605.

(e) Rural and community impact.

(4) As explained in ATP's Combined Environmental and Historic Report at 4 (filed with the Board on April 18, 2024 ), if the Line is abandoned, the Line's right-of-way is likely to be transferred to the University of Georgia, which is developing plans to utilize the right-of-way as a connectivity corridor that would incorporate bus rapid transit, pedestrian, and bike uses that would be open to public use. The right-of-way would not be available for other public use.

ATP has fee simple ownership of the property underlying the Line's right-of-way, except for at least<sup>1</sup> three sections of the right-of-way where the Line crosses former Cemetery Street, Baldwin Street, and Mitchell Street (formerly Factory Street) in Athens, Georgia. *See* Exhibit C. When ATP purchased the Line in 2019, it assumed the right to cross these streets for "railroad purposes." *See* Exhibit D. How this limitation on the use of these crossings would affect the transfer of title or the use of property for other than rail purposes has not been determined. ATP is not aware of any other restriction, including any reversionary interest, on the title to the property underlying the ATP Line.

**Labor Protection**

ATP believes no employees will be adversely affected by abandonment, as the Line has been out of service for at least nine years. However, as a condition of the Board's abandonment authority, ATP will accept the standard labor protection conditions as set forth in *Oregon Short Line R. Co – Abandonment – Goshen*, 360 I.C.C. 91 (1979).

---

<sup>1</sup> The 2019 ATP Boundary Survey (attached as Exhibit C) also suggests there is a break in ATP's property ownership as the Line crosses the Oconee Street underpass in Athens. ATP does not have in its possession any agreement that clarifies any property ownership at the Oconee Street crossing.

## **Certifications**

Included in Exhibit E are Certificates of Notice, Service, and Publication, pursuant to the requirements of 49 CFR §§ 1152.50(d)(1), 1105.11, and 1105.12.

## **Environmental and Historic Report**

A copy of the cover letter which accompanied ATP's Combined Environmental and Historic Report ("CEHR"), containing the information required by 49 CFR §§ 1105.7(e) and 1105.8, and served in accordance with 49 CFR § 1105.11, is attached as Exhibit F. The CEHR was filed with the Board on April 18, 2024. On April 8, 2024, ATP received an email (attached as Exhibit G) from the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission (NGRC) stating that the University of Georgia's potential use of the right-of-way post-abandonment "aligns with what our office included in our assessment as a potential future use." NGRC also stated it "[does] not have anything to add regarding the U.S. Surface Transportation Board's review." ATP has received no other comments on the CEHR.

Respectfully submitted,



Paul A. Cunningham  
HARKINS CUNNINGHAM LLP  
1750 K St. N.W., Suite 300  
Washington, D.C. 20006  
(202) 973-7601  
[pac@harkinscunningham.com](mailto:pac@harkinscunningham.com)

Dated: April 23, 2024

*Counsel for Athens Transportation  
Partners, LLC*

# **EXHIBIT A**

## **Verification**

**Verification**

Pursuant to 49 CFR § 1104.5(b), I, Paul A. Cunningham, verify under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Further, I certify that I am qualified and authorized to file this Verified Notice of Exemption. Executed on April 23, 2024.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul A. Cunningham".

---

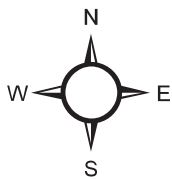
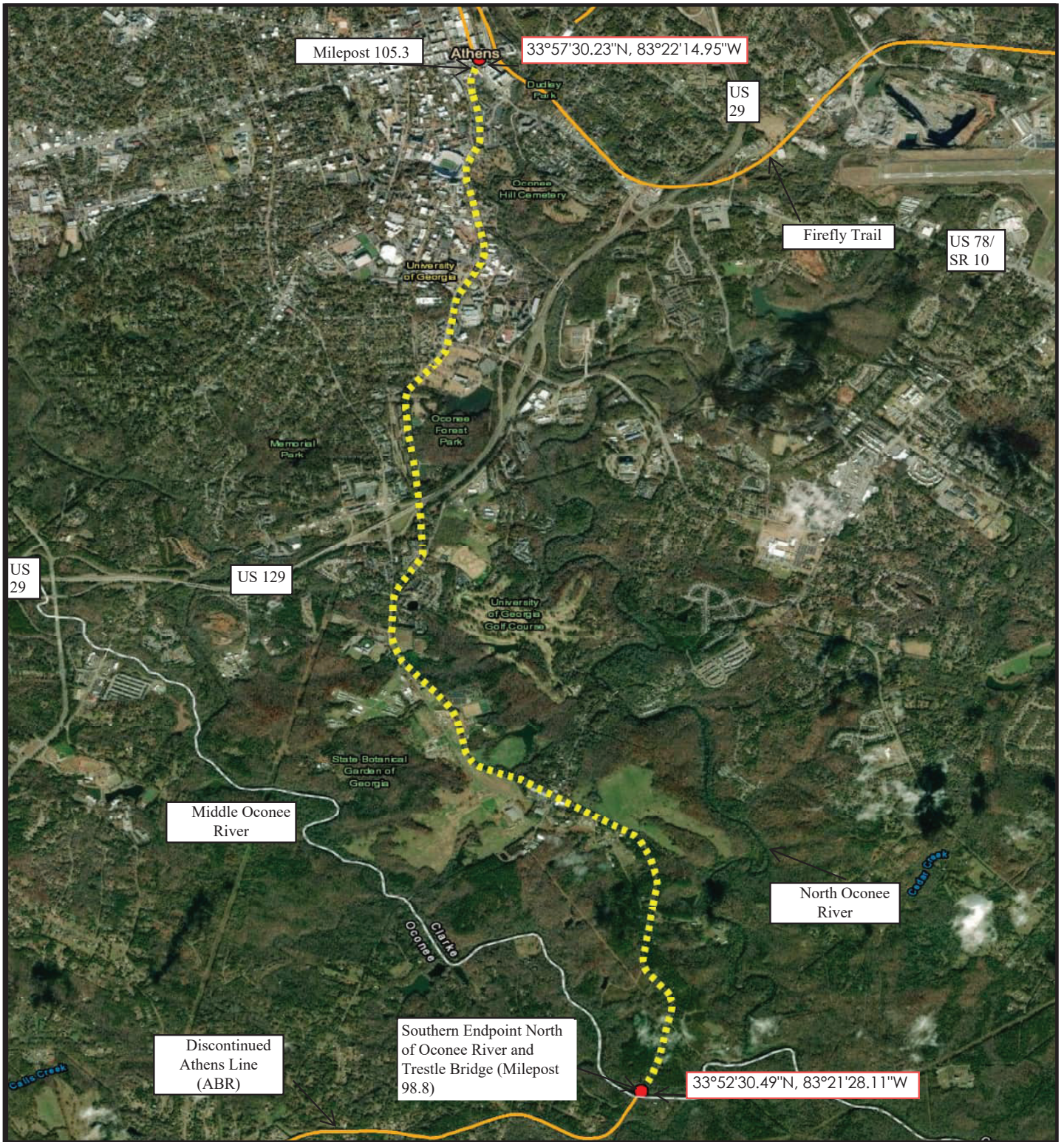
Paul A. Cunningham  
HARKINS CUNNINGHAM LLP  
1750 K St. N.W., Suite 300  
Washington, D.C. 20006  
(202) 973-7601  
[pac@harkinscunningham.com](mailto:pac@harkinscunningham.com)

Dated: April 23, 2024

*Counsel for Athens Transportation  
Partners, LLC*



**EXHIBIT B**  
**MAP**



## LEGEND

- ATP Line Corridor Endpoints
- ATP Line RR Corridor
- Other Railroads and Trails

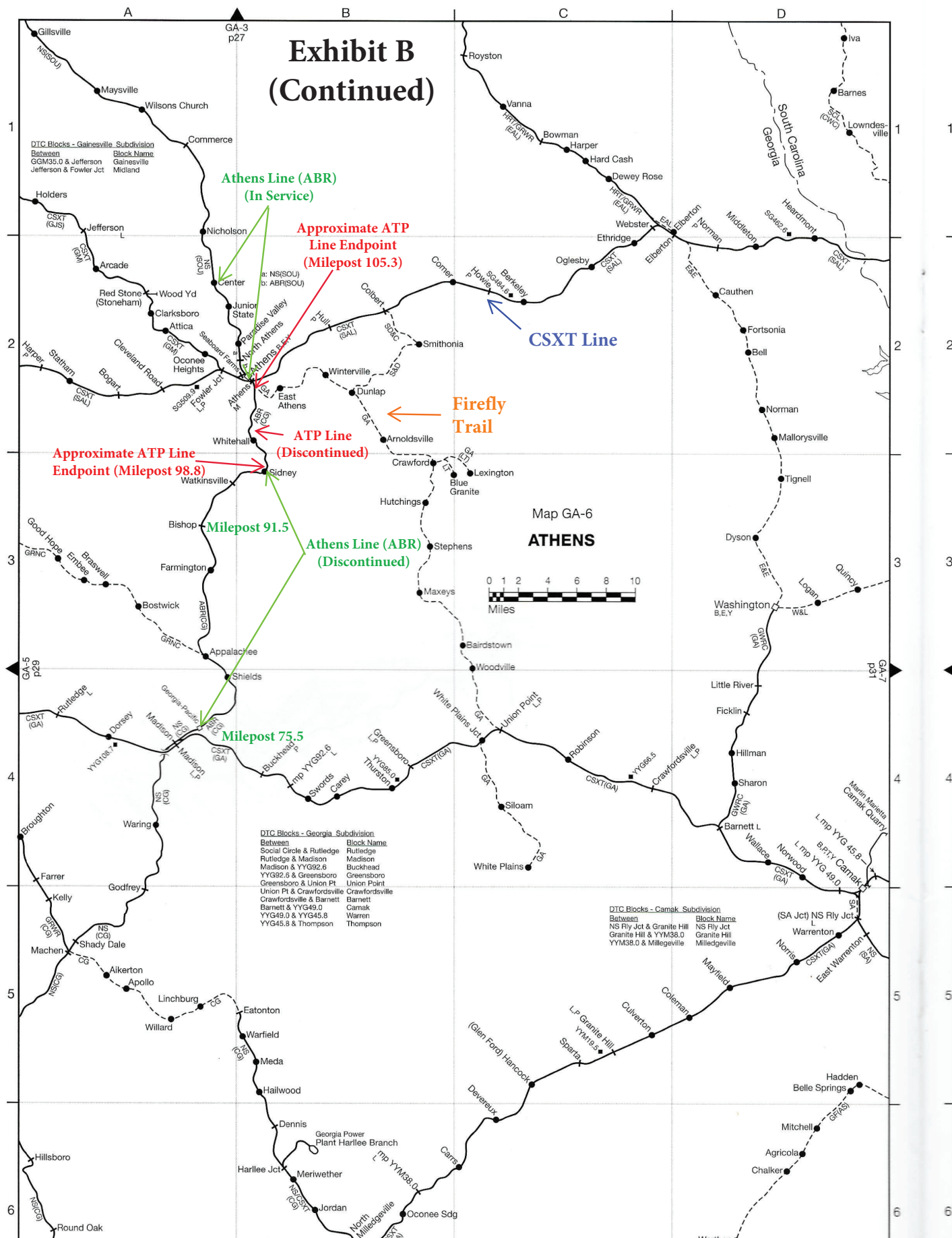


ATHENS TRANSPORTATION PARTNERS, LLC  
EXEMPT ABANDONMENT, CLARKE COUNTY, GA

Exhibit B



# Exhibit B (Continued)



**EXHIBIT C**  
**2019 ATP Boundary Survey**







CLARKE COUNTY, GEORGIA

DATE: AUGUST 7, 2019

<b>REVISIONS:</b>	
<i>DATE</i>	<i>COMMENT</i>



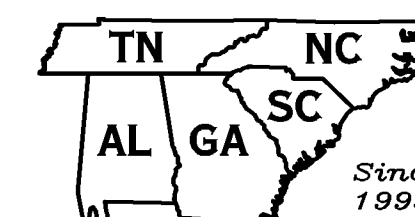
- |                                 |              |                  |
|---------------------------------|--------------|------------------|
| IRON PIN FOUND                  | HYD HYDRANT  | POWER BOX        |
| IRON PIN SET (IPS)              | UTILITY POLE | UTILITY WRESTLE  |
| COMPUTER POSITION (NO MONUMENT) | WATER TRENCH | ORAIN DRAIN LINE |
| OR                              | WATER METER  | SEWER MANHOLE    |
| OR                              | GAS METER    | SEWER HOLE       |
|                                 | GAS VALVE    | LIGHT POLE       |
- 
- |        |                       |  |  |
|--------|-----------------------|--|--|
| RTB    | REBAR                 |  |  |
| OTB    | OPEN TOP PIPE         |  |  |
| CP     | CORROSION PROTECTANT  |  |  |
| P.O.B. | POINT OF BEGINNING    |  |  |
| R/W    | RIGHT OF WAY          |  |  |
| N/L    | NEUTRALITY LINE       |  |  |
| P/F    | PROPERTY LINE         |  |  |
| C/L    | CENTERLINE            |  |  |
| N/F    | NOW OR FORMERLY       |  |  |
| DB/DD  | DEAD BOOK/DRAWING     |  |  |
| DD     | DEAD                  |  |  |
| PU     | UTILITY POLE          |  |  |
| LL     | LAND LOT              |  |  |
| CP     | REINFORCED CONC. PIPE |  |  |
| CC     | CORROSION PROTECTANT  |  |  |
| TP     | TERRA COTTA PIPE      |  |  |
- 
- |          |  |
|----------|--|
| ASPHALT  |  |
| CONCRETE |  |
| GRAVEL   |  |
- 
- |                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| EXIST. CONTROLS      |  |
| EXIST. INDEX CONTROL |  |
| PROF. CONTOUR        |  |
| PROF. LINE           |  |
| R/R TRACKS           |  |
| EXIST. CONTROLS      |  |
| EXIST. INDEX CONTROL |  |
| PROF. CONTOUR        |  |
| PROF. LINE           |  |

## DISCLOSURE & NOTICE

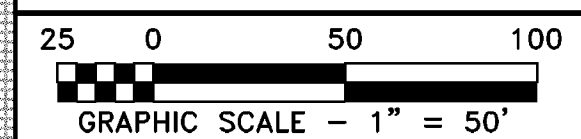
This drawing and any findings does not constitute a title or legal opinion by Chastain & Associates, P.C. Any provided certification is a statement based on facts and knowledge known to the registrant and is not a guarantee or warranty, either expressed or implied. Other documents or conditions may exist that would affect this property. As a unique pictorial and graphic professional work, this survey is subject to the Copyright laws of the United States. The latest date of field survey work is the date applicable to provisions of Statutes of Limitation. No certification or liability is extended to any party not named herein. Subsurface matters not certified unless excavated.

IN GOD WE TRUST

PREPARED BY  
**CHASTAIN & ASSOCIATES, P.C.**  
SURVEYING~PLANNING~CONSULTING

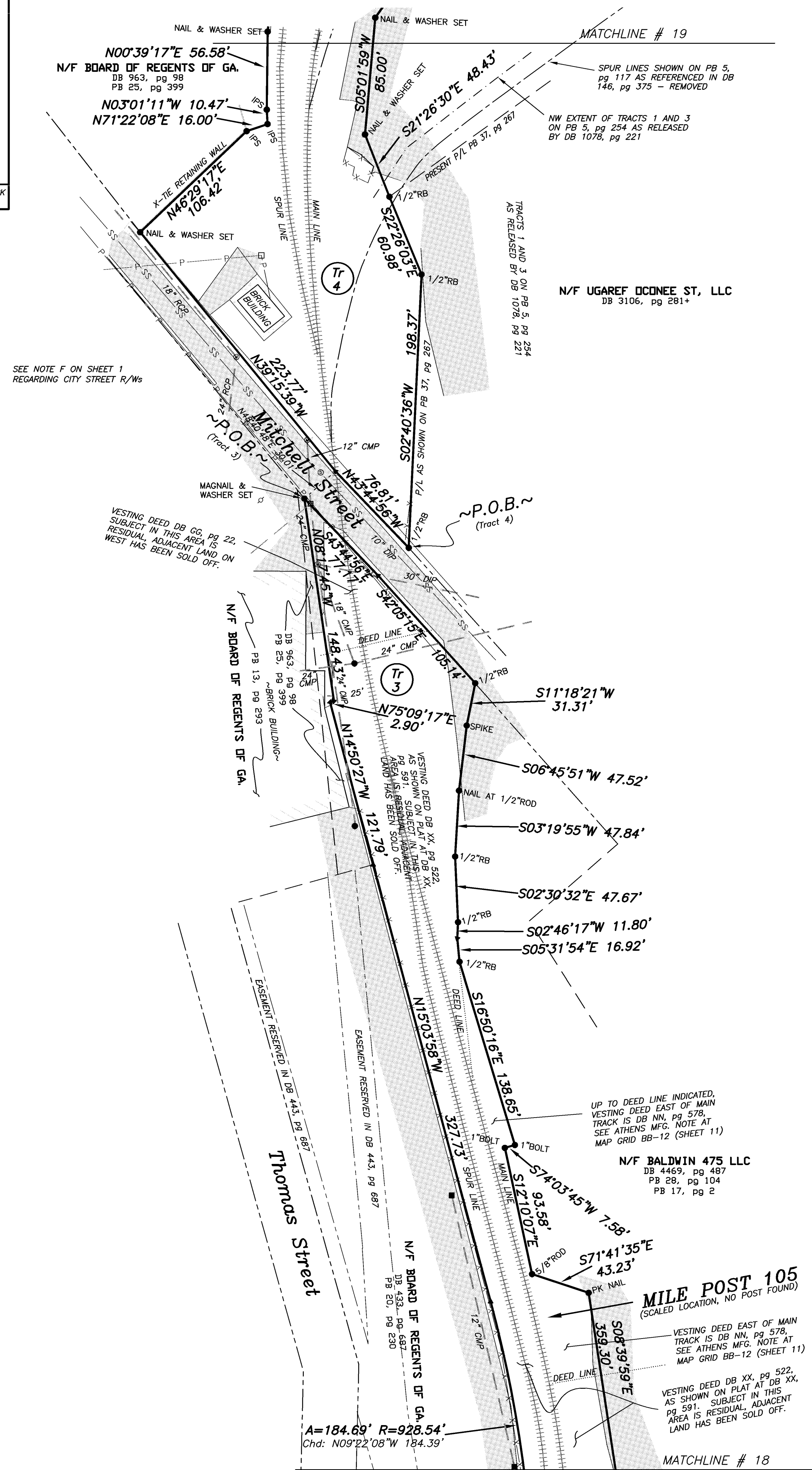


**CHASTAINASSOCIATES.COM**  
**(706)276-7528 (770)889-1770**  
email: [INFO@CHASTAINASSOCIATES.COM](mailto:INFO@CHASTAINASSOCIATES.COM)  
**288 N. Main St. Ellijay, GA 30540**  
GEORGIA CERTIFICATE OF AUTH. LSF000781  
TENNESSEE PROFESSIONAL REG. NO. 1937  
NORTH CAROLINA LAND SURVEYING FIRM C-3198  
ALABAMA LAND SURVEYING FIRM CA-852-LS  
SOUTH CAROLINA SURVEYING FIRM COA NO. 5205



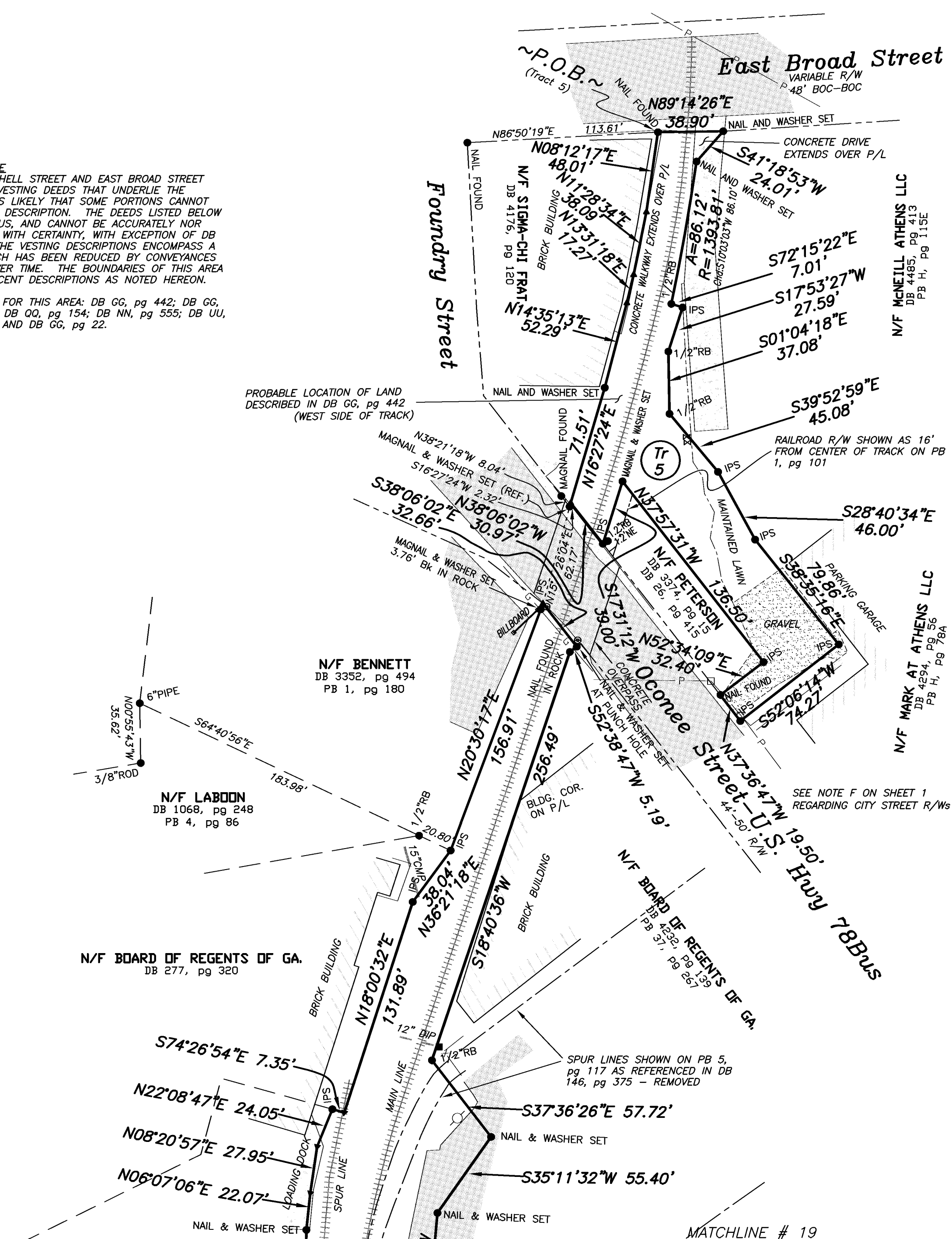
**SHEET 12 OF 12**  
*FILE: 219C39B*

THE SPACE ABOVE IS RESERVED FOR THE CLERK  
OF SUPERIOR COURT FOR RECORDING DATA



**VESTING DESCRIPTION NOTE**  
THE AREAS BETWEEN MITCHELL STREET AND EAST BROAD STREET HAVE VARIOUS POSSIBLE VESTING DEEDS THAT UNDERLIE THE SUBJECT PROPERTY. IT IS LIKELY THAT SOME PORTIONS CANNOT BE TRACED TO A VESTING DESCRIPTION. THE DEEDS LISTED BELOW ARE VAGUE AND AMBIGUOUS, AND CANNOT BE ACCURATELY NOR APPROPRIATELY DEPICTED WITH CERTAINTY, WITH EXCEPTION OF DB 66, pg 442. SOME OF THE VESTING DESCRIPTIONS ENCOMPASS A MUCH LARGER AREA WHICH HAS BEEN REDUCED BY EASEMENTS OUT OF THE RAILROAD OVER TIME. THE BOUNDARIES OF THIS AREA ARE BASED ON THE ADJACENT DESCRIPTIONS AS NOTED HEREON.

POSSIBLE VESTING DEEDS FOR THIS AREA: DB GG, pg 442; DB GG, pg 444; DB OO, pg 313; DB QQ, pg 154; DB NN, pg 555; DB UU, pg 548; DB 46, pg 302; AND DB GG, pg 22.



## **EXHIBIT D**

### **1888 Agreement to Cross Streets in Athens**



473x

01743 202-21

Savannah, Ga., March 2, 1923 cbu-s

R-98

Mr. T.F. Smith;  
Land and Tax Agent-

Dear Sir-

I hand you herewith two copies of an Ordinance passed  
by the Mayor and City Council of Athens granting the Covington and  
Macon Railroad the right to cross certain streets in Athens,  
Georgia.

We have no copy of this Ordinance <sup>on file</sup> and I will be obliged  
if you will have the same filed with our Covington and Macon deeds.

Yours very truly,

*E. Lawrence*  
Chief Engineer.

RECORDED COPY FILED

Unrecorded agree  
to Cross Streets

Cemetery  
Baldwin  
Factory  
Thomas  
Broad



No. 6  
Superior Court- November Term, 1888

The Georgia Railroad & Banking Company

vs-

Covington & Macon Railroad Company and the  
Mayor and City Council of Athens.

Bill for Injunction and Relief

Original- Filed August 11, 1888-  
John I Huggin, Clerk,

Jas. B. Cumming-  
Bryan Cumming-

E X H I B I T " D "

Be it ordained by the Mayor and Council of the City of Athens, Section 1- That the right of way be and is hereby granted to the Covington and Macon Railroad Company to lay its track across Cemetery Street, Baldwin Street, Factory Street, Thomas Street, Broad Street, thence into and through Hickory street, in a northerly direction, to and crossing Strong street, Bridge Street, Foundary street, the alley between Foundary Street and River street, crossing River street, Hoyt Street and Wallega Avenue, with the right to make the necessary cuts, trestles, turnouts, switches, etc., and to use and occupy said right of way forever for railroad purposes as shown by the plat hereto attached, which is made apart of this Ordinance for a more complete description of said crossings, turnouts, switches, etc., provided that no more than is necessary for a road bed shall be taken for a road bed where a single or double track is laid; and provided further that no side tracks, turnouts, etc., shall be laid where the main track runs through or along a street.

Section 2- It shall be the duty of the said Covington and Macon Railroad Company to make and keep in repair- the necessary crossings and bridges for public travel along the streets and side walks, over which or through which these tracks, side tracks, turnouts, etc., may be laid, and all bridges to be the full width of the street and side walk unless by special consent of the Mayor and Council.

Section 3- Nothing in this ordinance shall be construed to interfere with the rights of private individuals or other persons who may be affected by the passage; nor to interfere with the



City's action ever and against said Covington and Macon Railroad Company, in the event that said City shall be held liable for allowing the right herein granted, nor to interfere with the right of the authorities of said City to pass such police ordinances and regulations in the future, concerning said Covington and Macon Railroad Company as said authorities shall deem necessary for the safety and welfare of said City.

Section 4- This ordinance shall take effect when the said Covington and Macon Railroad Company shall file in the office of the Clerk of Council, its written acceptance of the terms and conditions herein set forth.

Council then adjourned.

W.A. Gilleland, Clerk.

## **EXHIBIT E**

### **Certifications of Notice, Service, and Publication**

## **CERTIFICATES OF SERVICE AND PUBLICATION**

### **49 CFR § 1152.50(d)(1) – Notice**

The undersigned certifies that on April 9, 2024 (at least 10 days before filing this Notice of Exemption), a notice, attached as Attachment 1, including (1) the name of the abandoning railroad (ATP), (2) a description of the Line, (3) the U.S. Postal Service ZIP Codes to which the Line traverses, (4) an indication that the STB's exemption procedure is being used, (5) the approximate date of the filing of the Notice of Exemption, and (6) the statement regarding federally granted rights-of-way and document requests provided in 49 CFR § 1152.50(d)(1) was served on these parties:

The National Park Service  
Recreation Resources Assistance  
Division  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240

Department of Defense  
SDDC Transportation Engineering Agency  
Railroads for National Defense Program  
1 Soldier Way, Bldg 1900W  
Scott AFB, IL 62225

The U.S. Department of Agriculture,  
Chief of the Forest Service  
1400 Independence Ave., SW  
Washington, DC 20250

Georgia Public Service Commission  
244 Washington Street, SW  
Atlanta, GA 30334

### **49 CFR § 1105.11 – CEHR Transmittal Letter**

The undersigned certifies that on March 29, 2024 (at least 20 days before the filing of the Notice of Exemption), a copy of the Combined Environmental and Historic Report pursuant to 49 CFR §§ 1105.7 and 1105.8 was served on the agencies provided in 49 CFR §§ 1105.7(b) and 1105.8(c). The transmittal letter (Exhibit F) lists the agencies served.

### **49 CFR § 1105.12 – Newspaper Notice**

The undersigned certifies that a Notice of Intent to Abandon Rail Service in the form provided by 49 CFR § 1105.12 – which alerted the public to the proposed abandonment, available reuse alternatives (such as trail use and public use), and how it may participate in a STB proceeding – was published on April 21, 2024 in the Athens Banner-Herald, a newspaper of general circulation in the county where the line is located.



---

Paul A. Cunningham  
HARKINS CUNNINGHAM LLP  
1750 K St. N.W., Suite 300  
Washington, D.C. 20006  
(202) 973-7601  
[pac@harkinscunningham.com](mailto:pac@harkinscunningham.com)

Dated: April 23, 2024

# **Attachment 1**

## **Notice**

April 9, 2024

The National Park Service  
Recreation Resources Assistance  
Division  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240

Department of Defense  
SDDC Transportation Engineering Agency  
Railroads for National Defense Program  
1 Soldier Way, Bldg 1900W  
Scott AFB, IL 62225

The U.S. Department of Agriculture,  
Chief of the Forest Service  
1400 Independence Ave., SW  
Washington, DC 20250

Georgia Public Service Commission  
244 Washington Street, SW  
Atlanta, GA 30334

**Re: Proposed Exempt Abandonment of the ATP Line in Athens, Clarke County, GA, STB  
Docket No. AB 1332\_0\_X**

To whom it may concern:

On April 22, 2024, Athens Transportation Partners, LLC (“ATP”) expects to file with the U.S. Surface Transportation Board (“STB”) a Verified Notice of Exemption, pursuant to the STB’s exemption procedures, to authorize ATP to abandon a long out of service segment of rail line that runs from the northern end of the Oconee River trestle bridge in Athens-Clarke County at approximate milepost F-MP 98.8 (33°52'30.49"N, 83°21'28.11"W) to approximate milepost F-MP 105.3 (33°57'30.23"N, 83°22'14.95"W) in the north near East Broad Street in Athens, Clarke County, Georgia (the “ATP Line”). The ATP Line is approximately 6.5 miles long and traverses U.S. Postal Service Zip Codes 30601, 30602, and 30605.

Based on information in ATP’s possession, the ATP Line does not contain federally granted rights-of-way. Any documentation in ATP’s possession will be made available promptly to those requesting it.

Please do not hesitate to contact [bmc@harkinscunningham.com](mailto:bmc@harkinscunningham.com) with any questions.

Sincerely,

Paul A. Cunningham  
HARKINS CUNNINGHAM LLP  
1750 K St. N.W., Suite 300  
Washington, D.C. 20006  
(202) 973-7601  
pac@harkinscunningham.com

*Attorney for Athens Transportation Partners, LLC*



**EXHIBIT F**  
**Transmittal Letter**

March 29, 2024

Athens-Clarke County Unified Government  
c/o The Hon. Kelly Girtz, Mayor  
P.O. Box 1868  
Athens, GA 30603

US Fish and Wildlife Service  
1875 Century Blvd, NE  
Atlanta, GA 30345

Communications and Outreach Branch,  
NOAA, N/NGS12  
National Geodetic Survey, SSMC3 #8716  
1315 East-West Highway  
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3282

US Environmental Protection Agency  
Region Four  
Atlanta Federal Center  
100 Alabama Street, SW  
Atlanta, GA 30303 3104

Georgia State Historic Preservation Division  
60 Executive Park S.  
Atlanta, GA 30329

Georgia Department of Natural Resources  
543 Elliot Trl  
Mansfield, GA 30055

National Park Service  
Atlanta Federal Center, 1924 Building  
100 Alabama Street, SW  
Atlanta, GA 30303

Georgia Department of Transportation  
One Georgia Center  
600 West Peachtree St., NW  
Atlanta, GA 30308

Natural Resources Conservation Service  
111 E. Spring Street, Suite D  
Monroe, GA 30655

Georgia Environmental Protection Division  
4244 International Pkwy, Ste 120  
Atlanta, GA 30354

Northeast Georgia Regional Commission  
305 Research Drive  
Athens, GA 30605-2725

United States Army Corps of Engineers  
South Atlantic Division  
60 Forsyth St. SW  
Atlanta, GA 30303

**Re: Proposed Abandonment of the ATP Line in Athens, Clarke County, GA, STB Docket No. AB 1332\_0\_X**

To Whom It May Concern:

On April 22, 2024 Athens Transportation Partners, LLC (“ATP”) expects to file with the U.S. Surface Transportation Board (“STB”) a Verified Notice of Exemption to authorize ATP to abandon a long out of service segment of rail line that runs from the northern end of the Oconee River trestle bridge in Athens-Clarke County at approximate milepost F-MP 98.8 (33°52'30.49"N, 83°21'28.11"W) to approximate milepost F-MP 105.3 (33°57'30.23"N, 83°22'14.95"W) in the north near East Broad Street in Athens, Clarke County, Georgia. Attached

is a Combined Environmental and Historic Report describing the proposed action and any expected environmental and historic effects, as well as a map of the affected area. ATP does not expect any adverse environmental impacts to result from this abandonment.

ATP is providing this report so that you may review this information, which will inform the STB's independent environmental analysis of this proceeding. If any of the information is misleading or incorrect, if you believe that pertinent information is missing, or if you have any questions about the Board's environmental review process, please contact the Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA), Surface Transportation Board, Washington, DC, at (202) 245-0300 and refer to STB Docket No. AB 1332\_0\_X. Because the applicable statutes and regulations impose stringent deadlines for processing this action, please provide your written comments to OEA (with a copy to me and [bmc@harkinscunningham.com](mailto:bmc@harkinscunningham.com)) within 3 weeks.

Your comments will be considered by the Board in evaluating the environmental and/or historic preservation impacts of the contemplated action. If there are any questions concerning this proposal, please do not hesitate to contact [bmc@harkinscunningham.com](mailto:bmc@harkinscunningham.com).

Sincerely,

/s/ Paul A. Cunningham

Paul A. Cunningham

HARKINS CUNNINGHAM LLP

1750 K St. N.W., Suite 300

Washington, D.C. 20006

(202) 973-7601

[pac@harkinscunningham.com](mailto:pac@harkinscunningham.com)

*Attorney for Athens Transportation Partners, LLC*

# **EXHIBIT G**

## **NGRC Response**



## Athens Line Abandonment Notice - AB 1332\_0\_X

**Mark Beatty** to: bmc@harkinscunningham.com,  
pac@harkinscunningham.com

04/08/2024 10:53 AM

Cc: "Carol Flaute"

History: This message has been forwarded.

Data Sender

Mr. Cunningham,

I am in receipt of your environmental notice regarding the abandonment of a segment of the Athens rail line (AB 1332\_0\_X). I would like to note that this corridor is identified as a Regionally Important Resource (RIR) in the Northeast Georgia Resource Management Plan, adopted in 2018 (see attached). The resource description is included on page 29. The RIR Plan does not impose any environmental requirements other than for the resource to be considered in Developments of Regional Impact (DRI) reviews and regional and local planning documents. Per the description of what UGA intends to do post-abandonment, using the corridor for multi-modal purposes aligns with what our office included in our assessment as a potential future use.

Regarding Development of Regional Impact reviews, the potential future actions by UGA listed in the Environmental Report part 1.3.iv. would not require a DRI review per the State thresholds.

For the action of abandonment on this section of the rail line, I do not have any thing to add regarding the U.S. Surface Transportation Board's review. My comments are directed to you for informational purposes.

Sincerely,

**Mark Beatty**

| Director

Planning &  
Government  
Services

Northeast

Georgia

Regional

Commission

305 Research  
Drive, Athens,



reduced\_NEGA\_Resource Management Plan.pdf

GA 30605  
(Direct)  
706.530.2748  
| (Main)  
706.369.5650  
[www.negrc.org](http://www.negrc.org)

*Follow us on  
Instagram  
@NEGRC\_PGS*