



Memorandum

U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Transit
Administration**

Subject: NEPA Class of Action Determination – SEPTA-CSX
Separation Project, West Trenton Line

Date: JAN 13 2014

From: Tony Cho, Community Planner

To: Brigid Hynes-Cherin, Regional Administrator

Through: Vida Morkunas, Director
Office of Planning & Program Development

Project Sponsor: Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA)

Project Location: Bucks County, PA and Mercer County, NJ

Project Overview: The project involves the physical separation of freight and passenger rail operations on a six mile segment of railroad, where the northern end of SEPTA's West Trenton Regional Rail Line operates over CSX's Trenton Subdivision or Line, which is its main north-south freight corridor. In addition, this project includes the reinstallation of, within the existing railroad right-of-way (ROW), a track and interlocking that were removed decades ago.

Project Description: The scope of work includes the separation of SEPTA commuter rail operations and CSX freight operations on the West Trenton Line, includes splitting the existing "Wood" Interlocking into separate passenger and freight interlockings, re-constructing 3.75 miles main track, re-installing an interlocking at Yardley, upgrading a 6-mile segment of existing track, and splitting the existing "Trent" Interlocking into separate freight and passenger interlockings. All work will be performed in the existing railroad ROW, and no bridges will be modified by the project. No structures along the project area will be changed, including the West Trenton Station building, canopies, platforms, and signal towers.

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act was initiated, and consulting parties were invited to comment on the project, including the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) for both the State of New Jersey and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Letters were sent on December 10, 2013, and the consulting parties were asked to respond by January 10, 2014.

One email was submitted with questions, from New Jersey Transit, which were responded to. New Jersey Transit responded on January 6, 2014 that it did not have any further questions or comments. No other written comments were received.

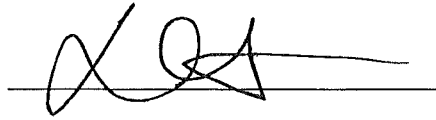
Anticipated Project Concerns: None.

Project Graphic: See attachment.

Recommended Level of NEPA Review: X CE EA EIS

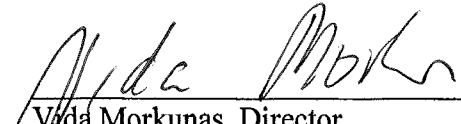
Section 771.118(c)(8) Maintenance, rehabilitation, and reconstruction of facilities that occupy substantially the same geographic footprint and do not result in a change in functional use, such as: improvements to bridges, tunnels, storage yards, buildings, stations, and terminals; construction of platform extensions, passing track, and retaining walls; and improvements to tracks and railbeds.

Therefore, I agree that the project is properly listed as (c)(8) categorical exclusion determination under Section 771.118.



1/13/14
Date

CONCUR:



Veda Morkunas, Director
Office of Planning and Program Development

1/13/14
Date


Jay M. Fox, Regional Counsel

1/13/14
Date

APPROVE:


Brigid Hynes-Cherin, Regional Administrator

1/13/14
Date