Capital Reporting Company VA Ave. Environmental Assessment and Section 106 Public Meeting 11-30-2011

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VIRGINIA AVENUE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
SECTION 106 PUBLIC MEETING

National's Park
1500 South Capitol Street, Southeast
Washington, D.C.
November 30, 2011
7:00 p.m.

Reported by: Gervel A. Watts, CERT*D

Capital Reporting Company VA Ave. Environmental Assessment and Section 106 Public Meeting 11-30-2011

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                      APPEARANCES
  SPEAKERS:
3
        FAISAL HAMEED, DDOT
        STEPHEN PLANO, Parsons Brinckerhoff
        JOHN UNDELAND, StrataComm
5 TESTIFYING WITNESSES:
6
        ROBERT LEE
        HARRY SIMITH
7
       BETH PURCELL
        FRED MILLAR
8
       KATIE MACK
       FRAN WEINARAUB
9
      JOHN HIRSCHMANN
       MAUREEN HARRINGTON
      MICHAEL CRAWFORD
10
       MARK BAKER
11 MICHAEL QUADRINO
       DAVID PERRY
12
       ROBERT KRUGHOFF
       ANN DARCONTE
13
      PAT TAYLOR
       BRENT JOHNSON
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                   PROCEEDINGS
             MR. PLANO: Can we have everybody take their
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    seat, please? We're ready to begin.
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             MR. HAMEED: Can someone in the back tell me
 4
   if they can hear me? Yes? Great.
              Okay. Good evening, everyone. Thank you for
 6
   coming to our second Virginia Avenue Tunnel Environment
 7
   Assessment Meeting. At any point where you can't hear
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   me, just let me know and I will try to project more or
   start to yell.
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11
             Quickly, about the meeting format, we had the
   Open House for the first half-an-hour of this evening.
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13
   We're going to run through the presentation for the
   next 20 minutes or so, and after that we will have our
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   Q & A session. We would like for you to hold your
   questions until we are finished, and after that we can
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   have the Q & A session.
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             Quickly, about the logistics and the
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19
   facilities, can you let everybody know where the men's
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   room and ladies rooms are or any other things we need
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   to mention?
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             MR. UNDELAND: Out the door here, proceed
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    along the hallway and through the glass doors are the
    restrooms.
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             MR. HAMEED: Okay. So for today's
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   presentation, we are briefly going to run over the EA
            We are going to talk about the National
   Environmental and Policy Act process and the Section
    106 of the National Historic Preservation Act process,
    the "purpose and need" for this project and then we are
 8
    also going to talk about, which you may have already
    seen on the boards, some of the project concepts that
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11
    have been developed so far. In the end, we'll talk
    about the project schedule and also, after that, we
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13
   have the Q & A session.
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              Briefly, about the project's history, CSX has
   been going to the public and talking with agencies for
15
    quite some time now and there have been --
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17
              UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I know you asked if we
    could hear you, but do you mind saying who you are,
19
   please?
20
             MR. HAMEED: Oh, sorry. That was the first
21
    thing I was supposed to do. I apologize. I'm Faisal
   Hameed with the District Department of Transportation.
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- 1 Since you pointed that out, I should let you know
- 2 there's the rest of the team here. We have our chief
- 3 engineer, Nick Nicholson somewhere. He needs to wave
- 4 his hand. There he is, in the back. We have a
- 5 representative from the Federal Highway Administration,
- 6 Mike Hicks is here, and we have a number of people from
- 7 DDOT, Jennie and Leslie. Wherever you are, if you can
- 8 raise your hands? Thank you.
- 9 We have a few members from the CSX team here,
- 10 Keith Brinker, if you could raise your hands? We also
- 11 have the consultant teams working on the project from
- 12 Parsons Brinkerhoff. Steve Plano is the project
- 13 manager and he will be presenting shortly. We have
- 14 Jason Yazawa from Parsons Brinkerhoff and we have other
- 15 people from Parsons and Parsons Brinkerhoff. Can you
- 16 wave your hands?
- 17 Actually, everyone is wearing a tag like this
- 18 so you can tell who's from the project team. Did I
- 19 miss anyone? I guess not.
- 20 Going back to the project history, CSX, like
- 21 I said, has been going out and talking with different
- 22 agencies and working with the community for quite some

- 1 years. Even though the project has been in the making
- 2 for quite some time, but officially, the environmental
- 3 assessment process did not start until the summer this
- 4 year.
- 5 The reason behind that was even though CSX
- 6 had this project where they did want to reconstruct the
- 7 Virginia Avenue Tunnel Project, there wasn't an
- 8 official involvement from DDOT or Federal Highway
- 9 Administration until there was as federal action
- 10 identified, and that was this year. Since it requires
- 11 highway approvals, it had to go through the National
- 12 Environmental Policy Act process and it required an
- 13 environmental assessment to figure out what the level
- 14 of impact there are for the project. And that's how we
- 15 started this project this year.
- We had our first public spoken meeting in
- 17 September and we had over 125 participants in that and
- 18 we received quite a number of comments based on that
- 19 too.
- 20 Based on the first step of the NEPA process,
- 21 we actually completed the scoping process and we are
- 22 developing the purpose and need segment, which you will

- actually see today. And you will also see some of the concepts that we've developed so far. The next step after this is actually refining the alternatives and 3 we'll go over it in the latter part of the presentation of what the next steps are. After that, we complete the environmental 6 assessment process and have a decision. We will have 7 another public meeting after this, where we come back 8 with defined concepts and then we will release the environment assessment document once it's complete, we 10 will have at least 30 days for public comments and have 11 a public hearing after the release of the entire 12 13 document. The decision will be made after the release of the document and the public hearing. 14 15 I briefly talked about the NEPA and the Section 106 overview. The NEPA federal agency for this 16 project is the Federal Highway Administration, along 17 with DDOT from the local side. 19 We have the National Capital Planning 20 Commission and the National Park Service as property

agencies for the EA process. We are also currently

doing a Section 106 National Historic Preservation Act

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we have, which we are sharing with you today. After

- 1 that, Steve will also talk about some of the initial
- 2 concepts that we've developed so far.
- 3 It will be a little hard to see the monitor
- 4 with the presentation slides, but I think we tried to
- 5 set it up as best we could. You can actually see them
- 6 on the boards. Whatever I'm going to show on the
- 7 slides are exactly what's shown on the boards. After
- 8 Steve is done, we will talk about the next steps for
- 9 the project and then we'll have a Q & A session.
- 10 So with that, Steve?
- 11 MR. PLANO: Thanks, Faisal. Can everybody
- 12 hear me in the back? Okay. Good.
- 13 Just real briefly on the purpose and need,
- 14 the Federal Highway, as Faisal mentioned, has an input
- 15 into the project, primarily through possible affects to
- 16 I295. So they're our lead agency, and as Faisal
- 17 mentioned, National Park Service, NCPC are cooperating
- 18 agencies.
- 19 The needs of the project, we have them
- 20 bulletized for you up here. And as he mentioned, when
- 21 we actually write the environmental assessment, we'll
- 22 have a detailed purpose in each chapter, but just in

- 1 bullet form. We're looking to correct the deficiency
- 2 of the existing tunnel. We're looking to address
- 3 freight transportation in the quarter, in terms of
- 4 demand.
- 5 We're also looking to maintain freight
- 6 traffic during construction. This is a must. So like
- 7 any highway and any roadway project, maintaining what's
- 8 out there while you're under construction is very
- 9 important. Currently with that, though, it's very
- 10 important to have community objectives and input in the
- 11 process.
- So we've listed some items, including
- 13 minimizing the construction that impacts the community
- 14 while this is occurring. We also want to include the
- 15 community enhancements and improve the aesthetic
- 16 condition on Virginia Avenue and the ultimate condition
- 17 if one of these concepts is selected.
- 18 Most importantly, keep the communication
- 19 open. We're at the beginning of the process. We're
- 20 committed to communicating all the way through the
- 21 process. So know that we'll be back as many times as
- 22 you want and we'll keep the communication lines open

- 1 with you.
- 2 I'm going to briefly run through the project
- 3 concepts. As Faisal mentioned, they're on the boards
- 4 around the room. As we go through the presentation, it
- 5 will be a typical cross-section for the concepts and
- 6 there also be a map on the other screen. All of those
- 7 boards are also along the wall as you came in.
- 8 The project concepts in general, the first
- 9 one would be Number 1, a no-build. We'll also look at
- 10 a no-build condition, a baseline condition as a point
- 11 of comparison so that any of those other alternatives
- 12 can be compared to no planned construction, which is
- 13 really what this means.
- 14 So the no-build condition is the tunnel would
- 15 basically remain as is; the maintenance would go on as
- 16 is, but there would be no planned construction of it.
- 17 Then we have a series of concepts that we're
- 18 considering right now in the process that we'll
- 19 continue to look at, and at some point, we'll probably
- 20 come back in February as our target to actually screen
- 21 these down to a set of alternatives that will analyze
- 22 the environmental assessment in detail.

The first few, two through seven are really 1 rebuilds of the tunnel. I'll go through each one of 2 these item-by-item, concept-by-concept. So you have 3 the no-build. You have a family of rebuilds, 2 through 7 and then at the end, 8 through 11 are really concepts. So you have a family of rebuilds and you rerouted have a family of rerouting concepts. We'll 7 walk through each one of these. 8 Concept 1 is no planned construction. It's really a cross-section of the tunnel. You have the map 10 11 on this side. You have the cross-section to my left, your right. What we're showing here is really what the 12 13 tunnel is now. It was completed around 1907, the last part of the construction. So it's quite old. It's 14 15 about 3,800 feet long. It's a single-track tunnel, single stack tunnel and it's about five feet below 16 ground. So it's an existing condition. It's a no-plan 17 construction. Keep it as is. 19 Concept 2 would be to rebuild the tunnels. 20 Just to orient you on the slide, on the left-hand side 21 of the typical section over on my left, you have the 22 freeway and then what we have in the middle is the

- 1 tunnel, and just to the right of that, you see the open
- 2 trench. With all these concepts let me just note that
- 3 major track work would occur. We would do all the
- 4 temporary rerouting, pedestrians, autos all those
- 5 would be in place before the construction. So we would
- 6 do our best to maintain traffic out there. We'll work
- 7 on a traffic plan before the next meeting.
- 8 So after that, the first thing we would do
- 9 would be to construct the temporary track, the
- 10 "runaround track" as it's known. Once that's done, we
- 11 would divert all the train traffic over that temporary
- 12 track, then we would reconstruct the current tunnel,
- 13 the existing tunnel and it would be a new double track,
- 14 double-stack tunnel. So it would be two tracks and it
- 15 would accommodate trains two high.
- 16 MS. TAYLOR: What do you mean by two tracks
- 17 high?
- 18 MR. PLANO: We'll have time for questions
- 19 after. Thank you. Ultimately, what would happen at the
- 20 end, we would close the temporary track once we reroute
- 21 back into the tunnel, and after a tree furbish, we will
- 22 restore Virginia Avenue.

- So that's the sequence we would go through on 1 this in terms of construction. Do the temporary rebuild, move the traffic, and then ultimately replace 3 back to what you see out here today. 5 As we go through these sections, they're all oriented the same way. So I spent a little more time on that section just so you can get oriented. 7 Concept 3 is really just a mirror image of 8 what you just saw. So instead of the temporary track being on the south side, it would be on the north side, 10 close to the freeway. So that whole sequence I just 11 went through with the construction, it would be the 12 13 same construction sequence. It would be the same process, but it's just that the temporary track and the 14
- So after we looked at those, we came up with

open trench would be on the highway side as opposed to

- 18 Concept 4, which is really -- it's a bit of a hybrid.
- 19 We would have the temporary runaround track on both

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the other side.

- 20 sides. It would primarily be on the south side, but in
- 21 certain cases we would place it over on the north side.
- 22 That would be between 5th and 8th. What we were trying

- 1 to do is try to build where we had the most space. So
- 2 it's a bit of a hybrid. So far what you've seen is a
- 3 temporary track on the south side, temporary track on
- 4 the north side, or one that goes between the north and
- 5 south side. And this would be a little bit more
- 6 complicated in terms of sequencing. So those three all
- 7 kind of go together in terms of how they are laid out.
- 8 Concept 5 is a bit different in that in the
- 9 orientation, again, it's the same. What we would do
- 10 with this one, first all, it would not have an open
- 11 trench. We would construct a permanent single-track,
- 12 double-stack tunnel on the south side. So where you
- 13 saw the temporary trench before, we would actually
- 14 build, on the far right of that side, a new single-
- 15 track tunnel, double- stacked/double-high. We would
- 16 cover and divert all the train traffic over to that
- 17 while we go back and refurbish the existing tunnel, but
- 18 the existing tunnel would be refurbished as a single
- 19 track, double-high tunnel.
- In the other concepts, it was a doublewide
- 21 tunnel. It would just be a singlewide, but double-high
- 22 tunnel. So in effect, we would have two single-track,

- 1 double-high tunnels.
- 2 Concept 6, we're still in that first family
- 3 of rebuilds of the tunnel. What this would involve
- 4 would be reconstructing the tunnel while using it. And
- 5 the best analogy I can come up with is I renovated a
- 6 townhouse and I lived in it while I was renovating it.
- 7 That's what this would be. We would try to construct
- 8 the tunnel, doublewide, double high while it was still
- 9 in operation. Okay?
- Now, we have 7(a) and 7(b). With 7(a) and
- 11 7(b), it would involve rebuilding the tunnel, but there
- 12 would be no temporary trench. Now, 7(a) would be
- 13 rerouting the trains through Union Station, which you
- 14 see over on my right and your left.
- 15 So basically, we would reroute the trains
- 16 through Union Station, rebuild the tunnel. So instead
- 17 of a temporary trench where the trains would be running
- 18 in those first concepts, the trains would be running
- 19 through Union Station while we rebuild the tunnel.
- 7 (b) is a variation of that. It's the same
- 21 concept except the rerouting would be on a regional
- 22 basis. Instead of Union Station, it would be on the

- 1 map that you see, and you can see the extent of that
- 2 map here, it would involve pretty extensive diversions.
- 3 Set those aside in your mind for a second.
- 4 Concept 8 is most comprehensible when you look at the
- 5 cross-section. You see the existing tunnel at the top.
- 6 What this would involve would be building a new tunnel
- 7 underneath the existing tunnel.
- The new tunnel, again, would be doublewide.
- 9 So it would be two tracks and it would be double-high.
- 10 The diameter of that tunnel right now is about 44 feet.
- 11 It's very large. It would have to be quite deep. So
- 12 it would it would be about 80 feet deep. You can see
- 13 the relationship of how far down it would be from the
- 14 existing tunnel.
- Now, freight trains and freight tracks are
- 16 very flat and they go up at certain grades, but they
- 17 can't up too fast because of the requirements. To do
- 18 that, we have a nine-mile-long tunnel, but we thought
- 19 it was important to look at a concept like this and see
- 20 what would happen. So we looked at this and we got it
- 21 down deep enough to where we need it to be. We looked
- 22 at how far it would extend out and it would be nine

- 1 miles long.
- 2 The portal location -- just to orient you on
- 3 the map -- in Virginia, it would be near the Potomac
- 4 Yard in Alexandria, and on the other end it would meet
- 5 with Metro Station. So it's quite a long tunnel.
- 6 Okay. We're entering into that second family
- 7 of concepts that I talked about at the beginning. So
- 8 instead of the rebuild, now we're in the reroutes. A
- 9 couple of these you're probably familiar with, if
- 10 you're familiar with the NCPC study that was done a few
- 11 years ago.
- So Concept 9 was in the NCPC study. It's
- 13 known as the Indian Head alignment. Just to orient
- 14 you, on the map, the green color would be existing rail
- 15 lines that we would utilize. The orange would be a new
- 16 corridor, new rail lines. But even with the existing
- 17 rail lines, it would require some major rebuilds. So
- 18 the lines were there.
- 19 We would have to do some major rebuilds on it
- 20 and then also build new railroad. You can see the
- 21 extent of that, based on the scale of the map. This
- 22 was considered in the NCPC study. We've included it in

- 1 our family of concepts at this point. It would
- 2 basically be rerouting most of the traffic through
- 3 there. There would still be some local traffic through
- 4 the Virginia Avenue Tunnel.
- Now, you notice on that slide there are some
- 6 prices listed for a couple of these. They're in the
- 7 NCPC study. We just included that for information
- 8 purposes. We don't have prices yet for the other
- 9 concepts, but that will be developed as we move through
- 10 the process.
- 11 Concept 10, known as the Dahlgren Alignment,
- 12 is a similar approach. It's a regional reroute on a
- 13 bit of a different alignment. Both Concepts 9 and 10
- 14 would require new bridges over the Potomac. There are
- 15 30 plus miles of new railroad. Again, the color-coding
- 16 is the same. The green is existing rail but major
- 17 rebuild and the orange would be our new corridor.
- 18 Concept 11 is our last one. This would be a
- 19 rerouting on a regional basis. You can see the extent
- 20 of the rerouting. A lot of the rerouting would be in
- 21 other areas of the east coast. So it's kind of our
- 22 last rerouting alternative and concept. So this would

- 1 require some pretty extensive diversions of traffic,
- 2 but it was something we felt we should consider in our
- 3 family of concepts at this time. Just to summarize
- 4 quickly, Concept 1 was a no-build; 2 through 7 were
- 5 rebuilds; 7 through 11 are reroutes, and they are
- 6 different types of extents, in terms of differences.
- 7 Okay. I'm going to turn it back to Faisal.
- 8 He's going to talk about the project schedule and other
- 9 things and then we'll quickly get into the Q & A
- 10 session.
- 11 MR. HAMEED: This is our proposed schedule
- 12 right now. We are at the Public Concept Meeting, which
- 13 is today. After this, we will evaluate these concepts
- 14 further. I'm sorry; is that better?
- We are already at the Public Concepts
- 16 meeting. After this, we will reevaluate these concepts
- 17 further and we'll have another public meeting somewhere
- 18 in the February timeframe of next year. We are
- 19 collecting data on a number of things, including
- 20 environmental issues, traffic and others. Once we have
- 21 the refined alternatives, we can start analyzing the
- 22 impacts on those resources by these concepts.

1	Like I said in the beginning, we're doing the
2	Section 106 process concurrently. We will be starting
3	the consultation process for Section 106 soon. As I
4	said, it has been initiated and we've sent the
5	consulting parties letters already. We will be
6	collecting the data from the historical resources, the
7	archeological issues and other things.
8	We do want to have our environmental
9	assessment document prepared somewhere close to spring
10	and summer timeframe next year and then we will release
11	the document for public review and have a public
12	hearing two weeks after that. We hope to have that by
13	the summer next year. Then we can make a final
14	decision based on what we get from the community, based
15	on the assessments that have been done, and the
16	agencies' input sometime around the same timeframe in
17	the summer.
18	We don't have the exact dates or days right
19	now. It all depends on who much input and what kind of
20	impacts we discover as we move forward. Like I said,
21	this is still a proposed schedule.
22	One of the important things about the project

- 1 is that the public involvement, the agency involvement
- 2 and the comments we receive -- actually, the public
- 3 meeting is one way of providing comments. We have a
- 4 project website.
- 5 We have a number of ways for you to provide
- 6 comments. Today you can leave us your comments by
- 7 using the drop-box, which is located in the back. I
- 8 think there are forms available in the back for the
- 9 comments. Please make sure that you do that.
- 10 If you don't want to leave your comments with
- 11 us today, you can mail them later, or you can fax them
- 12 or e-mail them to us. There is a court reporter or
- 13 verbatim reporter right here. She's not officially
- 14 from a court; that's what she's called. It's to make
- 15 sure that if people do not want to write comments and
- 16 they just want to have verbal comments, they can go and
- 17 get their comments recorded. You can e-mail us your
- 18 comments if you want and send it to
- 19 virginiaavenuetunnel.com. You can also go to our
- 20 website.
- 21 You should be able to send us comments
- 22 anytime during the process. It would be very helpful

- 1 if you give the comments on the concepts today. I know
- 2 we had the Open House in the beginning and we have the
- 3 big maps in the back to talk about those things, but if
- 4 you feel you were not able to digest all the
- 5 information and were not able to submit the comments
- 6 today, like I said, definitely send them later through
- 7 mail, e-mail or fax.
- 8 With that, I think I will hand it over to
- 9 Steve to talk about the ground rules of the Q & A
- 10 session. One last thing before I finish. We will be
- 11 doing conceptual engineering during the environmental
- 12 assessment phase. Once we are done, we have a decision.
- 13 A detail design will follow after that and
- 14 then sometime later there will be construction. So
- 15 this is the very first phase of making the decision.
- 16 This is not the final design or the construction phase.
- 17 This is only the start of the process. So I just
- 18 wanted to make sure everybody knew that.
- 19 MR. UNDELAND: Good evening. My name is John
- 20 Undeland. I'm part of the CSX Federal Highway DDOT
- 21 team. Now we're at the part of the program of the
- 22 program where we want to hear from you. Before we get

- 1 into that, I just want to go over a few ground rules so
- 2 that this goes smoothly and we all get a chance to
- 3 speak.
- 4 First of all, we're going to take questions
- 5 from those of you who signed up. As you came into the
- 6 room here, you had the opportunity to sign up. Those
- 7 who weren't aware of that, if you would like to sign
- 8 up, we are still open for signing.
- 9 Once you did sign up, you got a number. So
- 10 we're going to call you in order of those who signed
- 11 up. Please promptly come to the mic. I'm going to be
- 12 announcing the next speaker, then the following two
- 13 speakers. We're here at the ballpark, right? So I'm
- 14 going to call you up as who's at bat, who's on deck,
- 15 and who's in the hole. If you do miss your
- 16 opportunity, we will simply put your name at the back
- 17 of the list. You will have a chance to speak.
- 18 When you do come to the mic, please state
- 19 your name very clearly and if you are representing any
- 20 organization, identify what that organization is as
- 21 well so that our court reporter can get that clearly.
- 22 To keep the program moving and ensure that

- 1 everyone gets a chance to speak who would like to
- 2 speak, we're going to hold your questions and comments
- 3 to a two-minute max. You don't have to go two
- 4 minutes, but we're going to hold you to a two-minute
- 5 max. If you have a two-part question, we're going to
- 6 ask that you do ask both parts of it initially.
- 7 You will have a light system here just like
- 8 you are doing testimony, or what-have-you, to alert you
- 9 as you're giving your remarks or questions as to where
- 10 you are with the time.
- We are in a ballpark, but we're going to
- 12 certainly ask that you not applaud, please, and no
- 13 booing, certainly, just out of respect for your fellow
- 14 speakers. We will wrap things up here at 8:30. As
- 15 Faisal mentioned, there are additional ways to comment
- 16 if you don't wish to comment here.
- 17 Our first speaker is Rob Lee, to be followed
- 18 by Harry Smith and then Beth Purcell.
- 19 MR. SIMITH: Simith.
- 20 MR. UNDELAND: Simith. I'm sorry. I'm going
- 21 to butcher some names, so forgive me in advance.
- 22 MR. LEE: Good evening, my name is Rob Lee.

- 1 I live on I Street, Southeast. My question is really
- 2 simple. How do we determine the right-of-way that the
- 3 Virginia Avenue Tunnel construction will progressing
- 4 upon over the construction process for the replacement
- 5 build?
- The 1900 law was fairly ambiguous in
- 7 specifically stating that it was only four train tracks
- 8 for the railroads to be able to build across at the
- 9 measurements that they were at the turn of the century.
- 10 The existing tunnel is about 48 feet across.
- The majority of the concepts, 2 through 7 are
- 12 designed between 80 and about 100 feet in length. So
- 13 it goes back to my original question. That's a pretty
- 14 wide margin, especially since my house sits right on
- 15 the -- I'm within 20 feet. How we do determine that
- 16 right of way?
- 17 MR. HAMEED: Thank you. Again, I'm Faisal
- 18 Hameed with DDOT. That is actually a question that
- 19 we're still looking at, especially with the right-of-
- 20 way distinction between what is owned by or what is in
- 21 the jurisdiction of CSX and what is in the jurisdiction
- 22 of DDOT. We're still trying to answer that question.

- 1 It is because of that law that you just referred to and
- 2 because some of the right-of-way information that we
- 3 have.
- 4 We have been working with CSX for the past
- 5 few weeks and we still haven't determined that. So at
- 6 that point, we do not have the answer to that question,
- 7 but we would like to get that answered.
- In terms of private property impacts, we do
- 9 have, I believe, on those maps -- and I don't know it
- 10 was clearly designated on those boards that we have --
- 11 but we do have the private property information and it
- 12 shows anywhere that there is an impact on private
- 13 property. I believe -- and Phil, correct me if I'm
- 14 wrong -- we are not going into any private property in
- 15 any of those alternatives.
- 16 MR. SHERIDAN: That is correct, with the
- 17 exception of the Marine property. But for the
- 18 privately- held property, the concepts that are under
- 19 evaluation today at present do not appear to show any
- 20 impacts, based on our research at the D.C. Surveyor's
- 21 Office on where those property lines are.
- 22 MR. UNDELAND: Next speaking is Harry,

- 1 followed by Beth Purcell and Fred Millar.
- 2 MR. SIMITH: Yes, sir. My name is Harry
- 3 Simith and I've got what I think is a fairly simple
- 4 question. It may be a misunderstanding on my part, but
- 5 as I understand the NEPA process, the environmental
- 6 assessment process is to work out the alternatives and
- 7 so on, but also to determine whether or not a larger
- 8 environmental impact study needs to be done.
- 9 Is that correct? And if so, where does that
- 10 fall in your schedule?
- 11 MR. HAMEED: Actually, you are correct. In
- 12 NEPA, there are different levels of action. We
- 13 typically do an environment assessment and you are not
- 14 sure what is the level of -- is there a significant
- 15 impact in NEPA terms or not. So you go through the
- 16 environmental assessment process, a name under NEPA,
- 17 and at the end, you determine is it a significant
- 18 impact or not. If it's not a significant impact, then
- 19 you make a decision and issue what is called upon the
- 20 finding of no significant impact.
- 21 If it's determined that there are significant
- 22 impacts, then that document is out at that point. Our

- 1 bigger environmental document, called an Environment
- 2 Impact Statement, is initiated at that point, but the
- 3 end time for doing the environment assessment is to
- 4 find out is are there significant impacts for this
- 5 action or not.
- 6 MR. SIMITH: So is that part of your final
- 7 decision? I didn't see it on any of your slides. You
- 8 went from EA to final NEPA decision. Is EIS part of
- 9 that final decision?
- 10 MR. HAMEED: Yes. That is the final. Is it
- 11 going to be EIS or we did not find any significant
- 12 impact. So that will be the final step.
- MR. SIMITH: Okay. Thank you.
- MR. UNDELAND: Beth Purcell, followed by Fred
- 15 Millar and Katie Mack.
- MS. PURCELL: Hi. Good evening. Thank you.
- 17 I'm Beth Purcell of the Capitol Hill Restoration
- 18 Society. My question to you all relates to Concepts 2
- 19 through 8. My question is will there be an engineering
- 20 study of the noise vibration projected to occur during
- 21 construction and also after the rebuild is completed?
- 22 And if so, would that study be posted online and when?

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                                Actually, as we go through
 1
             MR. HAMEED: Yes.
   the first step, we start an EA process and that is to
   collect data. So we go out -- especially for noise
 3
   analysis -- we have to go out and collect data on noise
   on what's called sensitive receptors. So we are
   collecting that data right now.
 7
              Well, we are going to start collecting that
          Then based on that data, we'll analyze how much
   data.
   the impact will be due to noise, during construction
    and after construction. And that will be part of the
10
   EA document and it will be released to the public as we
11
   get that information.
12
13
             MS. PURCELL: Okay. And will you also be
14
   projecting vibration afterwards with the double-stack
15
   double track?
16
             MR. HAMEED: This is actually a little
   different project from the typical highway projects
17
    that we do. It is a railroad, so there are two things
19
   that we have to analyze. Some of the details we would
20
   have to work out, but I believe, yes, we will do that.
21
             MS. PURCELL: You will have the vibration
   study before and after?
22
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1	MR. HAMEED: Yes.	
2	MS. PURCELL: Good. Thank you.	
3	MR. HAMEED: Thank you. Fred Millar, Katie	
4	Mack, and Fran Weinaraub.	
5	MR. MILLAR: Hi. My name is Fred Millar.	
6	I'm with the Sierra Club. My first question is are you	
7	willing to state publically, whether you are, in fact,	
8	using the long ridiculous route of which you would call	
9	our next CSX route, which is in Concept 11 over there,	
10	to go around D.C. with hazardous cargos?	
11	In other words, instead of using the nearby	
12	route, 50 miles north of D.C., which is the Norfolk	
13	southern line CSX said in court, "We will use our	
14	next available route, which goes out through	
15	Cincinnati, Cleveland, Albany I'm sorry Buffalo,	
16	Syracuse, Albany and then drops down south through the	
17	New York City metropolitan area on the way to Northern	
18	New Jersey.	
19	Will you say that, publically, of whether	
20	that is in fact the route that you're using with the	
21	hazardous cargos that you claim you are now rerouting	
22	around D.C. "voluntarily" since the federal government	

- 1 chose not regulate you on that?
- 2 The second question is would you develop an
- 3 honest map -- I mean, maps are real important here in
- 4 railroad politics, as you can see -- would you develop
- 5 an honest map that shows not just the ludicrous
- 6 alternative, which is the one that the National Capitol
- 7 Planning Commission has suggested, the gold-plated one
- 8 that would cost \$10 billion or whatever, but instead,
- 9 one that uses interchange agreements with your sister
- 10 railroad, Norfolk Southern, where it only goes 50 miles
- 11 west of D.C.?
- 12 It seems like not having that map is just a
- 13 continuation of a pattern of misleading the public
- 14 about what the real alternatives are. It looks really
- 15 arrogant and it looks really misleading. I don't think
- 16 you want to have that to be your major public image in
- 17 terms of how you treat people there.
- 18 You know, this is all based on the history
- 19 of, starting back in 2005, we tried to force CSX to go
- 20 around Washington, D.C. with cargos that the federal
- 21 government calls weapons of mass destruction. We
- 22 passed this 11 to 1 in D.C. Council. Who sued us in

- 1 court? CSX, followed by the rest of the railroad
- 2 industry with the Bush administration basically coming
- 3 in as an amicus with CSX. Those are my two questions.
- 4 MR. HAMEED: Thank you. I actually work
- 5 for DDOT, so I --
- 6 MR. MILLAR: I'm sorry; you work for who?
- 7 MR. HAMEED: I work for DDOT, D.C. Department
- 8 of Transportation. So I will have to defer that
- 9 question to CSX.
- 10 Steve, are you going to answer that question?
- 11 It's mostly about what CSX is doing.
- MR. FLIPPIN: We have Tom Murta here with us.
- 13 MR. HAMEED: Can you introduce yourself
- 14 first?
- 15 MR. MURTA: My name is Tom Murta, I'm with
- 16 CSX. Mr. Millar, excellent question. There are a
- 17 couple of things; you talked about the voluntary
- 18 reroute and we did put that into effect many years ago.
- 19 In 2009, the Federal Department of Transportation had a
- 20 regulation come into play that required the railroads
- 21 to do route risk models, based on safety and security,
- 22 using 27 factors that they promulgated. Because of

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- 1 D.C.'s unique characteristics as the Nation's Capitol,
- 2 certain extremely hazardous materials don't go through
- 3 D.C.; they have to be routed on other lines.
- 4 As far as using the Norfolk Southern route as
- 5 compared to CSX, I can't really address that because
- 6 that requires Norfolk Southern to be in the room with
- 7 us to discuss whether or not they would be willing to
- 8 do that interchange with us.
- 9 MR. MILLAR: Well, first of all, let me
- 10 clarify. When I said it was a misleading pattern, in
- 11 your own documents for this meeting, you actually said
- 12 that the rerouting that you're doing around Washington,
- 13 D.C. has something to do with federal regulations. And
- 14 in fact, we have made decisions to reroute, but my
- 15 understanding is that those decisions are secret and we
- 16 don't know where you're rerouting to.
- So going back to my first question, are you
- 18 willing to say publically tonight that you are using
- 19 either your own route, out through Cincinnati and
- 20 Albany and everything, or some other route which might
- 21 be the Norfolk Southern route but you can't say because
- 22 they're not here?

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1	MR. MURTA: Well, we don't publically talk	
2	about what routes we use. There are reasons for that,	
3	as you can understand.	
4	MR. MILLAR: No. I don't understand why you	
5	wouldn't want to say that you're avoiding Washington,	
6	D.C. and using a route that's much safer. Now, if your	
7	route is kind of ridiculous in that it involves	
8	endangering lots of other major cities, lots of other	
9	major target cities that are outlined, then maybe you	
10	wouldn't want to talk about it.	
11	MR. MURTA: It's not a matter of endangering	
12	anybody. It's looking at safety and security and the b	
13	best route for the product.	
14	MR. MILLAR: All right. Fair enough.	
15	MR. UNDELAND: Thank you. These are very	
16	good questions. The next speaker is Katie Mack,	
17	followed by Fran Weinaraub and John Hirschmann.	
18	MS. MACK: Hello. I'm Katie Mack. I'm a	
19	resident at 13th and Potomac Avenue, Southeast. I	
20	would first like to thank you for involving the public	
21	in your planning process.	
22	Second, is a concern, followed up by a	

- 1 question. My concern is the blowing of the train horns
- 2 at all hours of the night. I appreciate seeing in your
- 3 Q & A that you have looked into a waiver to halt that.
- 4 And my question is I'm curious as to the status of
- 5 that, the likelihood and the timeline of approval for
- 6 that to happen.
- 7 MR. HAMEED: I would defer to CSX because
- 8 this relates to CSX. Steve or Keith, who wants to
- 9 answer that question?
- 10 First, introduce yourself and what you do at
- 11 CSX, please.
- MR. FLIPPIN: Steve Flippin, D.C. Community
- 13 Affair. We also have John Wright here with operations,
- 14 who has the job of adhering to the operational rules.
- 15 As you know, the horns are a safety procedure that we
- 16 have to blow.
- With this, because we would be doing
- 18 something to the tunnel, there are opportunities there
- 19 for us to change that operating procedure at the
- 20 Virginia Avenue tunnel, specifically.
- MR. WRIGHT: We're looking at that and
- 22 certainly pursuing it. I think we will have an answer

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- 1 before the final decisions will be made. So yes, our
- 2 intentions are to strongly pursue that and see if we
- 3 can find a waiver. We think that we can make it safe,
- 4 but we've got to make sure we go through a few things
- 5 and obviously have every sign off. So we can't commit
- 6 to it tonight, but you will have an answer before the
- 7 final decision.
- 8 MS. MACK: Is it likely or unlikely? I'm
- 9 just curious about if this has been looked into in
- 10 previous projects elsewhere.
- 11 MR. WRIGHT: We have areas where we've
- 12 stopped blowing horns. So yeah, it should be a strong
- 13 possibility. I don't want to commit to it, obviously
- 14 because I don't have the final authority regarding
- 15 this.
- MS. MACK: Thank you.
- 17 MR. UNDELAND: Thank you. Fran Weinaraub,
- 18 John Hirschmann, and Maureen Harrington.
- MS. WEINARAUB: Yes. I'm Fran Weinaraub. I
- 20 live at 409 First Street, Southeast. I've lived on
- 21 Capitol Hill for 40 years. My question is who is
- 22 looking out for the District resident and their

38 property? 1 Virginia Avenue is already closed. I can't walk down that street. Who do we go to? I mean, I 3 haven't heard D.C. Council take this up, but where do all the rules get enforced. Is that you? Are you looking out for giving up this land 6 that belong to the residents. I don't understand that 7 process. Has that already happened? 8 MR. HAMEED: Are you referring to the land on Virginia Avenue itself? 10 11 MS. WEINARAUB: Yes, Virginia Avenue itself. Isn't that District property? 13 MR. HAMEED: Yes. Actually, the existing tunnel lies somewhere underneath Virginia Avenue itself 14 15 too. Our understanding is that D.C. owns and operates Virginia 16 17 Avenue. We are looking for keeping that right-of-way and part of the alternative development process is that: how can the tunnel reconstruction 19 20 occur while maintaining that? At this point, DDOT has no intention to do 21 away with right-of-way. But at the same time, we do

- 1 understand that a timely construction has to occur
- 2 because of the needs from CSX, and that's what we're
- 3 trying to accomplish here by doing this process.
- Actually, that was one of the main reasons we
- 5 asked to do an environmental assessment for this
- 6 project and not approve it with just a simple approval.
- 7 We wanted to see all the impacts of this project on
- 8 everything, including the right-of-way, the roadway
- 9 itself, the community traffic, noise, and air quality -
- 10 all those issues.
- 11 Like I said, we just started the process, so
- 12 we do not have the answers, but that is part of the
- 13 D.C. Department of Transportation's job. It's not only
- 14 to protect the interest of the agencies and the
- 15 department itself, but also the residents. So yes, it
- 16 is DDOT who is going to --
- MS. WEINARAUB: So you haven't given any
- 18 permits yet?
- 19 MR. HAMEED: No. We haven't given any
- 20 permits yet.
- 21 MS. WEINARAUB: And there's no historical
- 22 assessment that has to go in here?

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MR. HAMEED: That is the Section 106 that I
 1
    referred to earlier. The National Historic
 2
    Preservation Act, Section 106 process is actually going
 3
    to be in place.
              So we will evaluate all the cultural
 5
    resources in that area and then also analyze -- or
 6
    "assessment of the facts" as it's called -- on those
 7
    resources because of this action. So there will be a
 8
    complete study that will be done on this project just
    for historic resources and archeological resources.
10
11
              MS. WEINARAUB: Independently by the
    District, not them doing it, right? You doing it.
12
13
              MR. HAMEED: We are working with CSX. Like I
14
    said in the beginning, this project is sort of unique.
15
    It is not a DDOT project. It is not a Federal Highway
   project because typically, our projects are the ones
16
17
    that we come up with the funds, the Federal Highway
    funds. This is being necessitated because there is an
19
    approval that is needed from -- or there are approvals
20
    needed from DDOT and Federal Highway because CSX is
21
    going to use our federal highway and there are permits
22
    needed and there are various access points that are
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- 1 being impacted.
- 2 So that's the reason that DDOT is involved,
- 3 but it's not our project in the sense that we have any
- 4 D.C.
- 5 dollars involved in it. We do not have any
- 6 typical federal aid highway program that we use dollars
- 7 involved in this either.
- 8 So it is being funded through CSX, but we are
- 9 ensuring that everything that is developed by CSX and
- 10 the consulting team actually meets the requirements of
- 11 the law, be in federal or local, and the requirements
- 12 of the Department. So we are not doing anything,
- 13 internally, at DDOT, but everything that has been
- 14 produced is meeting the requirements of the law. As
- 15 for the historic preservation purposes, the person in
- 16 charge for doing that, Henry Ward, does meet the
- 17 requirements, as it says in the regulations for the
- 18 secretary of (inaudible) qualifications. So all of
- 19 those things are being done as part of the requirement
- 20 for the law.
- 21 MR. UNDELAND: Thank you. John Hirschmann,
- 22 followed by Maureen Harrington and Michael Crawford.

- 1 MR. HIRSCHMANN: I have a few questions. One
- 2 has to do with maintenance of traffic. I'm
- 3 particularly concerned about whether the exit ramp,
- 4 coming off 6th Street, Southeast will be maintained
- 5 throughout the construction, whether it will be able to
- 6 turn both north and south at that point.
- 7 I understand you may not be able to continue
- 8 to go east on Virginia Avenue under some of the
- 9 concepts being proposed, but I'm more concerned about
- 10 this than I would have been before 9/11, since a lot of
- 11 commercial traffic can no longer go through the Capitol
- 12 grounds.
- 13 The second question pertains to whether the
- 14 contractors are going to be highly incentivized to get
- 15 the project done as quickly as possible and
- 16 disincentivized to drag it out. I think that everyone
- 17 would agree that the faster we get this over and done
- 18 with, the happier everybody will live.
- 19 And the third question is really a follow-up
- 20 on a previous question posed by someone else. Is the
- 21 D.C. Council, as the legislative is distinct from the
- 22 executive branch of the D.C. Government going to be

43 involved in this process at any point, in terms of either oversight or a more formal review? 2 MR. HAMEED: Would you repeat your last 3 question, please? 5 MR. HIRSCHMANN: Will D.C. Council be involved at any point as the legislative is distinct from the executive branch in oversight or perhaps, a more formal approval of this project before it gets the final go ahead? 10 MR. HAMEED: Okay. Your first question about the 6th exit is that so far we have not agreed upon any 11 ramp closures with CSX. Again, that was one of the 12 13 reasons we wanted to do a complete study on this 14 project to analyze which ramps, if any, should be 15 closed. 16 From the Department of Transportation's perspective, we would not like any ramps to be closed. 17 But again, we also need to understand what the impacts 19 are from the construction and how it impacts the 20 duration of construction by closing those streets or 21 those ramps or not, and that is what the document is

going to do in those analyses we produce.

The second question regarding contractors 1 working quickly during the construction. Again, it is 2 a CSX project. It will be handled by CSX in terms of 3 funding the project, but I can tell you from the Department of Transportation's perspective, again, we do want the project to be constructed, when it gets to that phase, quickly because we do realize there are 7 going to be impacts on traffic and we do want to 8 minimize that. That's why, again, we have not agreed upon the timeframe for construction. 10 11 There is no timeframe for construction right now because we wanted to do a detailed study to find 12 13 out what time span we're talking about. We do not have 14 the answer today, but I can tell you that, at least 15 from my department's perspective, that is one of our 16 first priorities. We want minimal interruption for traffic, minimum interruption for community, and a 17 shorter duration for construction. Like I said, we are 19 very early on in the process, so we do not know the 20 answers, but that's the intent, moving forward, with 21 this project. 22 MR. HIRSCHMANN: Can I suggest strongly that

- 1 the D.C. Government will have, by far, the most
- 2 leverage on this situation before it gives its sign-
- 3 offs? I strongly hope it does not give any sign-offs
- 4 to make sure that this project is incentivized as
- 5 reasonably as possible.
- 6 MR. HAMEED: Thank you. I can say that the
- 7 mere fact that we are here in the EA process actually
- 8 speaks to that. The project was brought to us many
- 9 months ago and we did not sign-off with just a simple
- 10 check. We decided that we would have to do all these
- 11 analyses before we make any decision. So we will move
- 12 forward with that understanding.
- 13 Your last question about the formal
- 14 involvement of D.C. Council; unfortunately, I don't
- 15 have the answer to that. Typically, it is the
- 16 executive side, the departments that approve projects.
- 17 At some point it will not just be DDOT approving it, it
- 18 will also be DCRA giving the permits. Typically, D.C.
- 19 Council does not get involved in these things. I don't
- 20 have the answer of who will take that action to D.C.
- 21 Council.
- 22 Steve, do you want to speak to that from the

VA Ave. Environmental Assessment and Section 106 Public Meeting 11-30-2011 46 legislative side? Is that something that is typically done for CSX projects? 2 MR. FLIPPIN: Again, very unique project in 3 that we're having to be involved, where we're having other right-of-way outside of our own because right-ofway was over the top of our tunnel. Council has been alerted and kept informed of the project, but I'm not

- aware of any action that would be required of Council
- on this project.
- 10 MR. HAMEED: We actually also engage with
- various members of Council. I know there is somebody
- from Councilman Harrell's Office who is also here. So
- 13 we try to make sure council members also know.
- We also try to engage the council members on 14
- this. I know somebody from the D.C. Council's Office. 15
- Unfortunately, we were in such as rush that I couldn't 16
- 17 get her name. Actually, she's standing right there in
- the back. 18
- 19 MR. FLIPPIN: Linda O'Brien.
- 20 MR. HAMEED: Linda O'Brien. Now I know the
- name. Someone from Tommy Bell's office is also here. 21
- 22 MR. UNDELAND: Thank you. Maureen

47 Harrington, followed by Michael Crawford and Mark 2 Baker. 3 MS. HARRINGTON: Hi. I'm Maureen Harrington. I'm wondering what sort of emergency evacuation planning is being done and when that's going to be released to the public, the information about the planning, especially during the construction period. I'm also especially thinking about the circumstances regarding the events that unfolded with CSX's Baltimore tunnel fire back in 2001. The communication there was 10 11 far from ideal and I don't want to see something like 12 that happen here in the Nation's Capitol. 13 MR. HAMEED: So this was in regards to CSX evacuation or D.C.? Can you clarify that? 14 15 MS. HARRINGTON: Yeah. If there is a derailment in the tunnel or if there is any other sort 16 of problem that would require an evacuation, especially 17 during the period of construction because things are going to be a lot more out in the open and a lot of the 19 20 access routes are going to be blocked off or difficult

MR. HAMEED: I would have to defer to CSX.

to navigate. How is that being factored in?

21

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1	MR. BRINKER: I'm Keith Brinker with CSX. As
2	part of the NEPA process, we will develop emergency
3	response plans during the construction.
4	To address your question regarding derailment
5	response procedures, we have a set of core
6	environmental consultants and contractors that we
7	utilize within our system and they are readily
8	available to respond to such incidences.
9	MR. UNDELAND: Okay. We're about halfway
10	through our Q & A period and we're about halfway
11	through our list, so we're doing well.
12	Michael Crawford, followed by Mark Baker and
13	Michael Quadrino.
14	MR. CRAWFORD: Good evening. I'm Michael
15	Crawford. I live at 309 I Street. Essentially, I have
16	some comments for the folks from CSX.
17	First of all, I would like to thank everyone
18	for being here and I would like to thank the
19	information that you have given us. I would like to
20	urge you to continue and to actually expand this type
21	of interaction. I want to make some comments and
22	specific suggestions on how that might be done. I also

- 1 want to congratulate CSX. I've been looking at your
- 2 website and noticing that you are an extremely
- 3 profitable company. You had an excess of \$400 million
- 4 in profits in the last quarter. Every time I look at a
- 5 different announcement you're breaking records and I
- 6 think that's good. It's good for your shareholders and
- 7 it's good for people have faith, and it's good for you
- 8 guys because you're doing an excellent job, but one of
- 9 the things that occurred to me is that there is a lot
- 10 of anxiety in this community about what might happen.
- 11 I also noticed on your website that you plan to
- 12 increase your profitability in the future. It occurred
- 13 to me that resources exist, not only to control damage
- 14 on this project, but to enter into a different way of
- 15 doing this, which is to decrease anxiety in the
- 16 community and to make Virginia Avenue better,
- 17 afterwards, than it is right now.
- 18 So I would urge you to do two things. First
- 19 of all, I want to make four very quick concrete
- 20 suggestions; 1) to have a live contact person with some
- 21 sort of office hours where we could see a face and get
- 22 our questions answered, starting now, if you're willing

- 1 to; 2) To provide plain language responses to questions
- 2 about vibrations, environmental impact, you know, stuff
- 3 you guys know about. I think if you got the
- 4 information out there, we would feel better; 3) to make
- 5 a prior, credible, and even binding commitment to put
- 6 some resources aside so we don't have to worry about
- 7 whether or not you're going to hold to your
- 8 commitments. I think that would be very positive.
- 9 And lastly, as I said, to go beyond simply
- 10 mitigating the damage and commit to really making
- 11 Virginia Avenue much better than what it is. I think
- 12 that would work for the community and I really think it
- 13 would work for CSX. I think the resources exist to do
- 14 it, and I urge you to do it. Thanks very much.
- 15 MR. HAMEED: Steve, do you want to comment?
- 16 MR. DOBSON: Hi. I'm Chip Dobson of CSX. I
- 17 appreciate your comments. I want to take a stab at
- 18 responding to some of them. If I didn't get them all
- 19 or if I didn't get them in the right order, I
- 20 apologize. I think your first one was in reference to
- 21 live contact. We are taking those steps. Now,
- 22 understand, some of the things from through the NEPA

- 1 process -- maybe I think I'll let Faisal comment -- the
- 2 NEPA process has to be done in that controlled manner,
- 3 and we view this as one of those opportunities.
- Now, on a more ongoing basis, with increased
- 5 activity here, we recognize the need for that. We have
- 6 recently reassigned one of our CSX police officers to
- 7 this area. He is in the process of making that
- 8 transition now. He is in the back of this room now.
- 9 Please stand up, Andrew.
- 10 Andrew Ford is with CSX. He is a prior
- 11 Philadelphia City police officer. He has been with the
- 12 CSX Police Department for about three years now, and
- 13 he's going to be reassigned as a police officer with
- 14 CSX in this area. They were out looking today for an
- 15 office in the neighborhood that he will operate out of
- 16 it. Now, later, during construction we may expand the
- 17 capabilities or the people that are there to pull in
- 18 some other aspects of that to have more of a storefront
- 19 type of a presence. It's still under development, but
- 20 that's the first concrete part.
- I think your next comment was about
- 22 vibrations. We understand the vibrations are one of the

- 1 things that need to be evaluated. That is underway.
- 2 When we have the right data, as supervised by Federal
- 3 Highways and D.C. DOT, that will be part of the NEPA
- 4 process and that will be made available as part of
- 5 that.
- 6 I think your next comment was about
- 7 resources. This is a large undertaking and I think CSX
- 8 recognizes the need to do this well. To do it well
- 9 from an engineering perspective; to do it well from a
- 10 safety perspective, that if the tunnel is
- 11 reconstructed, there is an opportunity, you know, as
- 12 the street is put back together, to improve the
- 13 streetscape and do some things. We are open and
- 14 receptive to that as the details of the plan are
- 15 developed.
- 16 I think you had on more comment, but I'm not
- 17 sure what that --
- 18 MR. FLIPPIN: It was a combination of what
- 19 you just answered.
- 20 MR. CRAWFORD: With regard to vibrations, I
- 21 was just saying to provide simple-language information
- 22 that DDOT has about the effects of this that could be

- 1 made available and would lower some of the concerns
- 2 that we have.
- 3 MR. DOBSON: Okay. I just needed that little
- 4 memory jog. I think we're trying to do that.
- 5 Yesterday we put a round of the questions, team
- 6 questions that we've received to date that were posted
- 7 on our website. The material that you have seen here
- 8 tonight will be posted on our website very shortly
- 9 after this meeting.
- 10 We want to continue to have robust
- 11 communications. We know the website is a good means.
- 12 We also understand it's not the only means and will
- 13 continue to work those issues with the guidance of
- 14 Federal Highways and DDOT to continue that robust
- 15 communication.
- MR. UNDELAND: Good discussion. Mark Baker,
- 17 followed by Michael Quadrino and R. Taylor.
- 18 MR. BAKER: Good evening. My name is Mark
- 19 Baker. I'm a homeowner, with my wife and two small
- 20 children at 413 L Street, which is in the Capitol
- 21 Quarter community.
- I have some safety questions I wanted to get

- VA Ave. Environmental Assessment and Section 106 Public Meeting 11-30-2011
- 1 to, regarding my children, but if I can, I wanted to
- 2 begin with the alternatives presented in your NEPA
- 3 process. As I understand, in the exchange that
- 4 happened a few minutes ago, my concern is the hazardous
- 5 materials rerouting route, which I think we can all
- 6 presume that's the route we're using, is the most cost
- 7 effective route, is not presented as a NEPA alternative
- 8 in the process thus far; is that correct?
- 9 The silence is concerning.
- 10 MR. UNDELAND: By the format, we'd like you
- 11 to ask all your questions upfront. We're not trying to
- 12 ignore it.
- 13 MR. BAKER: No, no. That's fine. I was
- 14 hoping to get an answer to that because my concern is
- 15 that what's being presented as rerouting alternatives
- 16 around the city are nothing but book ends, and your
- 17 most cost effective manner of routing around this city
- 18 is not being presented; thus, the NEPA process in the
- 19 alternatives format is not a true alternative.
- 20 All the real alternatives are not being
- 21 presented. Perhaps, the NEPA process is being driven
- 22 towards a predetermined conclusion which concerns me as

- 1 a neighbor.
- 2 Turning to the other issues regarding my
- 3 children; as I see the drafts -- which I do appreciate
- 4 -- are far more informative than anything we've seen
- 5 previously. There are a couple of things missing.
- 6 Number 1, I don't see anything regarding the safety
- 7 that's going to be put around an open trench. When you
- 8 have small children, open trenches harboring trains are
- 9 a terrifying concept. I also don't see what routes are
- 10 going to be open north and south.
- 11 Considering we travel by foot to most places
- 12 we go, including parks on the Hill, et cetera, we need
- 13 to know that all those north/south routes are going to
- 14 be open and safe. I see my time has come to a
- 15 conclusion, and as a former appellate attorney, I know
- 16 that I need to stop speaking.
- 17 MR. HAMEED: I will actually answer Question
- 18 Number 2 first and then I will refer to Steve or Chip
- 19 from CSX to answer the first question.
- 20 With regard to safety, the cross-street
- 21 traffic -- I guess that's what you were trying to say
- 22 with regard to the street that cross with Virginia

- 1 Avenue. I will tell you that that is part of what DDOT
- 2 wants to accomplish as part of this process as well.
- 3 We want to maintain cross-street traffic on all streets
- 4 in some of these alternatives. I understand that there
- 5 may be an open trench during construction, but that
- 6 still requires a lot of safety considerations and also
- 7 do some kind of structures to maintain the cross-street
- 8 traffic, and that's what we will be analyzing during
- 9 the process.
- 10 Like I said, we are collecting the data on
- 11 the traffic, how much traffic there is, and how much
- 12 traffic it will be in the next few years during
- 13 construction.
- MR. BAKER: I feel like I need to follow up
- 15 on that because when you say "traffic," I assume you're
- 16 talking about vehicular traffic.
- 17 MR. HAMEED: No. I'm talking about all modes
- 18 of traffic.
- MR. BAKER: Oh, okay. Thank you.
- MR. HAMEED: We are the Department of
- 21 Transportation. We include auto, or bicycles, or
- 22 pedestrians, or transit. We are DDOT.

- 1 So we always consider all modes. Walking,
- 2 actually, is a big consideration for us. Part of
- 3 moving forward with the process, that's something we
- 4 want to ensure. Again, I keep on taking everyone back
- 5 to the reason we moved forward with an EA process.
- 6 That was one of the main reasons.
- 7 We wanted to analyze all impacts on traffic,
- 8 be it foot traffic, or bicycle traffic or pedestrian,
- 9 and also transit traffic. So that's what we want to
- 10 ensure, moving forward with the process, of whichever
- 11 alternative moves forward, there are cross-street
- 12 traffic allowed in those. The timing of that and how
- 13 long that would be, we also need to analyze and come to
- 14 a conclusion on. How the safety structures are going
- 15 to work, you know, these are preliminary concepts.
- 16 Actually, most of them -- I think Steve tried to point
- 17 out in the presentation of how do we look during
- 18 construction.
- 19 We will also be looking at how it will look
- 20 after construction. We don't have those today because,
- 21 again, it's all work in progress. So you will start to
- 22 see that information as it develops, as we get that

- 1 data. Again, that is the answer to Question Number 2.
- 2 That is one of our biggest concerns, maintaining cross-
- 3 traffic.
- 4 I will defer to CSX for Question Number 1 to
- 5 answer that question.
- 6 MR. DOBSON: Again, Chip Dobson from CSX.
- 7 Your first question seems to relate the reroutes that
- 8 were shown here and hazardous materials.
- 9 MR. BAKER: Let me be clear. I'm not
- 10 concerned -- I mean, yes, obviously I'm concerned about
- 11 hazardous materials, but in its context, I'm not
- 12 regarding hazardous materials as a matter in and of
- 13 itself. I'm concerned with how that route is being
- 14 utilized.
- 15 I'm sorry. Let me be clearer. I want to
- 16 know what route is being utilized to transfer hazardous
- 17 materials and whether or not that has been presented
- 18 because I would presume that the hazardous materials
- 19 route is the most cost effective route for CSX to move
- 20 goods around the city.
- 21 MR. DOBSON: I see. So in terms of what
- 22 determines the route of hazardous materials I think it

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what was mentioned here a while ago. MR. BAKER: It's a means to an end. It's not 2 hazardous materials in and of itself, it's what is the 3 route by which hazardous materials are moved? I mean, I think that would be interesting to 5 see it as a cost comparison versus the other alternatives and whether or not it is being included as an alternative. 8 MR. DOBSON: Well, the factors that determine the routes for hazardous materials, what I think Tom Murta explained a few questions ago is that it's a 11 number of federal things that go into a model that then 12 13 dictates it. It is not a cost-driven model, as you 14 were talking about. 15 The routes that are depicted in 7(a) and 7(b) were taken to the people who design our operations and 16 said if you had to reroute a large volume of trains, 17 what would be the best route? 19 Quite frankly, 7(a) and 7(b) is one concept. 20 Not saying that every train would have to go through

Union Station or every train would have to go on one of

those routes, but those are the routes that are most

- 1 represented of where they could go.
- 2 MR. UNDELAND: We're going to need to move
- 3 on. If you would like to --
- 4 MR. BAKER: That's okay. My question was
- 5 answered. Thank you.
- 6 MR. UNDELAND: Our next speaker is Michael
- 7 Quadrino, followed by R. Taylor and then David Perry.
- 8 MR. HAMEED: Sir, if you feel like your
- 9 question was not completely answered, can you please
- 10 make sure that you submit that in writing as well?
- 11 We will then address that and you will get an
- 12 answer to that question.
- MR. BAKER: Thank you.
- 14 MR. MURTA: I'd like to address that. Tom
- 15 Murta again. The DOT routing, the risk model, had
- 16 nothing to do with economic factors. It was based on
- 17 safety and security and economics were not part of that
- 18 regulation. To take a commodity out of route and
- 19 reroute, it's more expense. You have train crews and
- 20 you have train miles, locomotive usage, car usage. So
- 21 it becomes much more expensive.
- The project we're talking about here is not

- 1 about Hazmat through the District of Columbia, it's
- 2 about freight movements in general through the District
- 3 of Columbia, with hazmat being a very small portion of
- 4 overall freight movement.
- 5 MR. BAKER: I understand that. I'm trying to
- 6 find apples to apples comparison whereby, you move
- 7 freight around the city without using the Virginia
- 8 tunnel. And to me, the easiest way to make that
- 9 comparison is to find out how you move hazardous
- 10 materials, which as I understand it, District of
- 11 Columbia law prohibits hazardous material within two
- 12 miles of the Capitol building.
- MR. MURTA: It limits a very small
- 14 percentage. Less than a 10th of a percent of the
- 15 hazardous materials that are moved by rail
- 16 transportation are covered in the reroute around the
- 17 District of Columbia. There are very few commodities.
- 18 Those are toxic-by-inhalation hazard, exposes 1.1, 1.2,
- 19 1.3 that is (inaudible) through fuel, which is a very
- 20 small percentage of all rail transportation, and even a
- 21 very small percentage of hazardous materials.
- MR. BAKER: So I guess my question is when

62 you do route those hazardous materials, where does it 2 qo? MR. MURTA: It depends on who the consignee 3 is. Who bought it from whom and where does it have to go for final destination. MR. UNDELAND: I'm sorry. We are going to 6 have to move on. We have a number of speakers to get 8 to. MR. BAKER: Okay. I'll put it in writing to 10 try to get clarity. 11 MR. UNDELAND: Okay. Please do. All right. Michael Quadrino, followed by R. Taylor and David 12 13 Perry. 14 MR. QUADRINO: Okay. I'm Mike Quadrino, a local resident. I'm going to ask basic questions 15 16 because this is a new topic for me. Can you talk a little bit about each party 17 and what their goals are in this process? CSX is a private company, owner/operator of 19 20 the railroad. DDOT, I believe is looking out for the transportation needs of the city. I'm also curious to 21 know who Parsons is working for in this project. And

- 1 then DDOT, you talk a lot about maintaining the right-
- 2 of-way -- and I think you kind of answered it about
- 3 three questions ago -- but does that mean you don't
- 4 want traffic on any streets to be impeded or would you
- 5 have to close one street at a time and do detours to
- 6 get around?
- 7 Can you talk more specifically about the
- 8 goals in maintaining the right-of-way? That's it.
- 9 MR. HAMEED: I'll start. Maintaining the
- 10 right- of-way, that was an overall project,
- 11 construction done and what happens to the right-of-way.
- 12 So all our intent is to maintain what DDOT
- 13 owns today, what we believe to keep as it is.
- MR. QUADRINO: What about during
- 15 construction?
- MR. HAMEED: We do know that during
- 17 construction there will be some impacts through that
- 18 right-of-way. We don't know right now the exact
- 19 construction mechanism of how the construction will be
- 20 done and that's what's being analyzed. That's why you
- 21 see that many concepts.
- MR. QUADRINO: Assuming it's going to be

- 1 Options 1 through 7 -- because I think once you get to
- 2 Concept 8, you're talking about very expensive
- 3 operations for CSX that I mentioned they really don't
- 4 want to pursue -- so if you're talking about Concepts 1
- 5 through 7 where it's going to be open-trench
- 6 construction, you're talking about what the impacts
- 7 during construction would be for those options,
- 8 correct?
- 9 MR. HAMEED: Yes. Actually, that's exactly
- 10 what I was getting at. So during construction, in some
- 11 of those options that you see, Virginia Avenue itself
- 12 is shown as trenched. So there is an open section in
- 13 that. Then I also talked about cross-streets because
- 14 it's not just Virginia Avenue itself. There are
- 15 streets that go across Virginia Avenue. As I said
- 16 earlier, we do want to ensure that cross traffic on
- 17 those cross-streets does continue -- are maintained
- 18 during construction.
- 19 Now, after the construction is done, then it
- 20 will come back to, at the very least as it is, if not
- 21 better, but during construction, that is what we want
- 22 to ensure. Even during the development of these

- 1 alternatives, we are seriously looking what can
- 2 minimize the reconstruction or the opening of the
- 3 trench in that right-of-way.
- 4 Again, we do not have any of those answers.
- 5 If we were to accept the answer in the first place, we
- 6 would have just signed off, but we wanted to analyze
- 7 everything to understand, ourselves, what is the right
- 8 thing to do. The maintenance of traffic plans will be
- 9 developed as we move forward. We do not know which
- 10 alternative we will be moving forward with, but as we
- 11 move forward, that will be one of the key things and
- 12 that will also tell us how long the construction is.
- 13 Again, we have not agreed with CSX. We have
- 14 not given any permits and we have not agreed about the
- 15 time of construction. We have not agreed upon any
- 16 closures of lanes or streets at this point. This will
- 17 be done when we go through the process and make a
- 18 decision based on all the impacts and all the
- 19 information we get. So we will be getting that
- 20 information and making that decision as we go through
- 21 the process.
- 22 I'm sorry. I forgot your first question.

- 1 MR. QUADRINO: My question was what was the
 2 nature of each party that -3 MR. HAMEED: Oh, that's right. As I said,
- 4 it's sort of a unique process because it's not a DDOT
- 5 project; it's a CSX project, so there aren't any DDOT
- 6 funds involved in this.
- 7 CSX is the applicant in this case, or the
- 8 sponsor of this project. Before we can issue them any
- 9 permits or approvals, we had certain requirements,
- 10 including complying with the National Environmental
- 11 Policy Act, the National Historic Preservation Act and
- 12 they had to produce those documents, those processes
- 13 for us. And that's typically the case with most of the
- 14 DOTs today in the country. Most of the work is done by
- 15 consultants. We hire consultants and that's what CSX
- 16 has done. They have hired some consulting firms that
- 17 have special expertise in those areas to do that
- 18 analysis for them.
- 19 Parsons Brinkerhoff is the lead legal firm on
- 20 this project, with Steve Plano as the project manager,
- 21 and he has years and years of experience on developing
- 22 these sorts of projects. Now, along with Parsons

- 1 Brinkerhoff -- and I believe that Parsons Brinkerhoff
 2 is a full service firm and they have a number of people
- 3 with expertise in that team, but they also have
- 4 Parsons, which is a separate company, helping them with
- 5 engineering and other issues. Along with that, they
- 6 have Clark -- actually Clark and Parsons is a joint
- 7 venture in this case, helping them on design issues. I
- 8 believe MacKissic and MacKissic is also involved in the
- 9 public involvement component; is that correct, Keith?
- 10 MR. BRINKER: Yes.
- MR. HAMEED: So that's why you see a number
- 12 of consulting firms here. Since it's such a big
- 13 project and it has so many issues to consider, that's
- 14 why expertise from all these different resources are
- 15 being brought here. And then, of course, we have a
- 16 number of people from CSX here today. So that's the
- 17 relationship that is existing today.
- 18 MR. QUADRINO: So they all work for CSX right
- 19 now?
- MR. HAMEED: In terms of payment, yes.
- MR. QUADRINO: Sure.
- 22 MR. HAMEED: In terms of following the

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    regulations, they have to --
              MR. QUADRINO: No. Sure. I understand.
 2
             MR. UNDELAND: All right. I'm going to ask
 3
    our speakers to tighten up on our remarks because we're
    short on time with the speakers, as well as our
    question answerers.
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              Our next speaker is R. Taylor. Did we
    completely butcher your name? Our speaker after that
 8
    is David Perry, followed by Ann Darconte and Pat
10
    Taylor. Thank you.
11
              MR. PERRY: My name is David Perry and I'm a
   Board member of Barracks Row Main Street and a long-
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13
    time resident of the Hill. The question that I would
    like to ask relates to the consideration that will be
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15
    given to the projected construction cost, relative to
    the selection of the preferred alternative.
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17
              Let me give you an illustration. Suppose
    when you do further engineering analysis of the
19
    runaround track on the north side of the existing
20
    tunnel versus the runaround track on the south side of
21
    the existing tunnel, and in the course of that
    analysis, it turns out that there would be many more
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- 1 adverse impacts by having the runaround track on the
- 2 south side, closer to the new housing on the south side
- 3 of Virginia Avenue.
- 4 Now, if you put it on the north side, many
- 5 fewer adverse impacts -- but let's just say for
- 6 purposes of argument that in order to maintain the
- 7 structural integrity of the freeway, you would have to
- 8 put in a 800 or 900-foot long slurry wall which would
- 9 cost millions, or potentially tens of millions of
- 10 dollars more than putting in the runaround track on the
- 11 south side freeway.
- When you're doing that assessment of one
- 13 alternative that has fewer negative impacts for the
- 14 community versus one that costs you guys considerably
- 15 more money, how does that trade off get made in the
- 16 course of selecting the preferred alternative?
- MR. HAMEED: Actually, that is one of the
- 18 standard cases that you do when you document. Cost is
- 19 one of the many factors considered. It's never the
- 20 only factor.
- So when we analyze cost, along with all the
- 22 impacts. So if the impact of that alternative, which

- 1 is the cheapest one, are much higher than the others,
- 2 that doesn't necessarily mean that the cheapest
- 3 alternative is going to get selected.
- 4 Typically, all the impacts are considered at
- 5 the same time. That's exactly why you do the NEPA
- 6 document because you see all the impacts together,
- 7 including the cost impacts, and then you weigh all of
- 8 them to make a decision.
- 9 In terms of cost, it is not the only driver.
- 10 It may be the expensive alternative that gets selected
- 11 because it had less impacts involved, and it can be the
- 12 other way around. But to answer your question, it is
- 13 one of the many factors, not the only factor.
- MR. PERRY: If I could just have one follow-
- 15 up, please? Just to go back to something you said
- 16 initially to all of us, this project is very, very
- 17 atypical in as much as it's not a public project with
- 18 public money.
- 19 You're not spending FHWA or DDOT money;
- 20 you're only sitting as judge and jury, but the private
- 21 party is going to be the one putting up the money.
- 22 Does that in and of itself have any impact on the

- 1 decision-making process that you make, presuming that
- 2 you are the ones who ultimately do make the call as to
- 3 which alternative becomes the preferred alternative?
- 4 MR. HAMEED: Like I said, we will make the
- 5 decision, considering all impacts, at least from our
- 6 perspective. I can tell you now, though, cost is not
- 7 going to be the only factor. If it's expensive, we'll
- 8 just have to work with CSX and get that to that level
- 9 because at the end of the day, they need approvals.
- 10 That's why you're here. And if we are not comfortable
- 11 with that decision, whether it's cheaper or expensive,
- 12 we are not going to approve that alternative or make
- 13 that decision.
- MR. UNDELAND: Our next speaker is Ann
- 15 Darconte, following Pat Taylor and Brent Johnson.
- 16 MR. TAYLOR: I know I don't look like Ann,
- 17 but I think my name was the one you couldn't read. My
- 18 name is Robert Krughoff. You and CSX has talked about
- 19 the hope of what exists afterwards, in terms of the
- 20 streetscape and the whole neighborhood, will actually
- 21 be better than what is there now.
- 22 I think back to what the Federal Highway

- 1 Administration and D.C. Government did with Garfield
- 2 Park when they just had to close off the ramp for a
- 3 little while, a very short while at 3rd Street, and
- 4 they did a lot to improve Garfield Park. They really
- 5 invested in Garfield Park, improving the tennis courts,
- 6 the basketball courts, volleyball, landscaping, et
- 7 cetera. That was relatively a small cost, relative to
- 8 the whole project, but a very big deal for the
- 9 neighborhood and I'm hoping that you're thinking about
- 10 things like that, which, again, I think a lot of great
- 11 things could be done with a relatively small
- 12 investment.
- 13 I'm wondering what kind of process you might
- 14 use to decide which of those things you should do, both
- 15 the city and CSX. I'm wondering what things should
- 16 have the highest priority.
- 17 I'm also worried about one other specific
- 18 thing. I've talked to neighbors who actually live on F
- 19 Street, down near New Jersey Avenue, and they're always
- 20 concerned about the sound of a horn from the train.
- 21 For them, it's an annoyance, but to me it's just a
- 22 beautiful and romantic sound, but one of the

- 1 suggestions has been to tunnel on beyond where the
- 2 train now comes up out of the ground between first and
- 3 2nd Street. The tunnel west of there, another seven
- 4 blocks or something, that would be quieter for the
- 5 neighbors. It would certainly provide, possibly, some
- 6 green space down south of Virginia Avenue now. I'm
- 7 just wondering if you might think about doing that, I
- 8 would think that would be relevant and less expensive
- 9 than some of the other things you're going to do. My
- 10 time is up. Thank you.
- 11 MR. HAMEED: Thank you. In terms of the
- 12 streetscape, we are not at that stage, but it is
- 13 definitely going to be part of the mitigations that is
- 14 going to come out. Part of the process is to look at
- 15 the impacts and then whatever the impacts are, propose
- 16 mitigations based on that.
- 17 Like I said in the beginning, at the bare
- 18 minimum, if one of the alternatives that you see here
- 19 in the first seven get selected. At the bare minimum,
- 20 CSX would have to put the streetscape back to its
- 21 existing condition. I know it's not in the greatest
- 22 shape in the world right now, but that will be the bare

1	minimum.
2	On top of that, there will be mitigations. I
3	cannot say what those mitigations or enhancements will
4	be at this time, but we will be developing them as we
5	move forward. I know at some point CSX had shared an
6	idea of what it would eventually look like. Again, we
7	are going through the process. That was something that
8	CSX has proposed. We will work with that with them to
9	make sure those mitigations and enhancements are to
10	occur. And when we meet next time, we will actually
11	have some better understanding of what those
12	alternatives and what the final product will look like.
13	We will not have all the answers in a month or two
14	months. We will be working with you and the agencies
15	and CSX to develop those.
16	Your second question about turning farther,
17	actually, we asked CSX to take a hard look at that, not
18	just on the western side, but also on the eastern side.
19	I believe that's Concept 8, where they're showing if

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20 the tunnel were to go farther, how far they would have

to go. I will let Phil actually answer that question

because he's working on the engineering side and he can

- 1 give you a detailed answer on how the tunnel would work
- 2 or not work.
- 3 MR. SHERIDAN: Phil Sheridan again. I think
- 4 you're asking a slightly different question. One of
- 5 the studies on Alternative 8 was to actually put a
- 6 deeper tunnel in. I think what you're asking is for us
- 7 to essentially extend the portion of the tunnel that's
- 8 covered, to the west, to possibly bring the tunnel so
- 9 that the portal is outside of the residential areas.
- 10 MR. KRUGHOFF: And to also create some green
- 11 space and other things down in that direction. It
- 12 wouldn't be much, but something.
- MR. SHERIDAN: Certainly, one of the
- 14 immediate constraints is the existing New Jersey Avenue
- 15 overpass over the railroads and the functions. You
- 16 move into what's called the New Jersey yard, and the
- 17 structure would have to become marketedly wider in that
- 18 area to accommodate the function that occur west of New
- 19 Jersey Avenue. So it's something that -- I don't know
- 20 how practical it would be, but we'll certainly take a
- 21 look at it as we advance the process.
- 22 MR. UNDELAND: The next speaker is Pat

- 1 Taylor, followed by Brent Johnson.
- 2 MR. KRUGHOFF: No. The real Ann should be
- 3 coming up now.
- 4 MS. DARCONTE: The real Ann Darconte has
- 5 stood up. I am a resident of Capitol Quarter. I
- 6 wanted to thank you all. I'm very pleased, frankly,
- 7 with the format that we have tonight. I think this is
- 8 much more reasonable and is working better for
- 9 everyone. I also wanted to say that looking at all the
- 10 different concepts, just like in life, we look at the
- 11 extremes when we make a decision and all of the things
- 12 that fall in between. I would say to you that some of
- 13 these extreme concepts. Some of them are much more
- 14 reasonable than others. I don't think I'm so naive to
- 15 think that when I built my house and moved in that they
- 16 were going to move the railroad anymore than they were
- 17 going to tear down the highway that separates north and
- 18 south.
- 19 So being reasonable, I'm going to tell you
- 20 that I would support Concept Number 5. Concept Number
- 21 5 is one where there is a second tunnel built. The
- 22 reason that I support that concept is because in modern

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1	day, with the kinds of materials that are available, it	
2	seems to me that a second tunnel could be built in a	
3	way that would reduce the vibrations and protect those	
4	closest to that tunnel. I also think from the	
5	standpoint of having two trains in a single tunnel at a	
6	particular time, I worry about the potential for an	
7	accident and how to evacuate that. So I like the fact	
8	that they're potentially two tunnels here.	
9	Third, I would say that it also seems to me	
10	in building Concept 5, rather than having to tear up	
11	the entire street at one time which is an	
12	inconvenience of people who live right there that it	
13	seems like it's a concept that says let's cut part and	
14	cover part and slowly move our way down the street,	
15	which I think would be much less problematic for the	
16	people who live there.	
17	With that said, I would also say, focusing on	
18	the positives here, I have a couple of questions. One	
19	is, is there a distinctive difference in the time it	
20	would take to build that second tunnel in Concept 5	
21	than it would be to expand the original tunnel and	
22	create two tunnels with the ditch that we talked about	

- 1 for so long? Would there be a significant time or
- 2 dollar difference in building it?
- 3 Second, would there be a significant noise
- 4 difference?
- 5 And lastly, I know we'll get to this when we
- 6 have a concept and we have specifics, but I'd like to
- 7 make sure that there's pest control involved in
- 8 anything that gets done for our neighborhood. Thank
- 9 you.
- 10 MR. HAMEED: Thank you. The answer to your
- 11 question about the cost and timing is that we are
- 12 working on those details. We do not have the answer,
- 13 but we will as we move forward. The first step is to
- 14 collect the data and come up with these concepts. The
- 15 next step is exactly what you were saying, getting
- 16 those details, the cost, the timing. So we will be
- 17 developing that soon and then we will share that with
- 18 the community.
- 19 MR. UNDELAND: All right. Pat Taylor and
- 20 then Brent Johnson.
- 21 MS. TAYLOR: I'm Pat Taylor and I live on
- 22 Capitol Hill. I want to urge DDOT to really push for

- 1 one of their rerouting alternatives, 9 or 10, to take
- 2 this line out of the District. The reason is -- and
- 3 you know this very well because we've worked together
- 4 on the Anacostia Bridge's planning project -- the
- 5 railroad line run from M Street, where it crosses the
- 6 river, an extension of M Street, and then it runs right
- 7 up along the Anacostia, on the east side of the
- 8 Anacostia. It divides a neighborhood and it kind of
- 9 creates a blighted area. If that railroad line could
- 10 be removed, there would be the potential for having a
- 11 much nicer neighborhood and for reuniting the east side
- 12 of that neighborhood with the west side still on that
- 13 side of the Anacostia. It would be a really big
- 14 improvement. I understand it's expensive, but it would
- 15 be very desirable.
- 16 MR. HAMEED: Thanks, Pat. It's good to see
- 17 you again. It's been many years. Actually, yes, in
- 18 that study we did look at some of those concepts.
- 19 Again, going back to some of the concepts that you have
- 20 here, one of the main reasons, again, I'm going to go
- 21 back to Concept 8, that's why we encouraged CSX to take
- 22 a real hard look of what it takes to have good access

- 1 to the waterfront to the community.
- 2 So we are analyzing that, but we also
- 3 understand, again, it all comes back to jurisdiction
- 4 and who owns what. So CSX still owns that part of the
- 5 property. So working with CSX, we will do our best to
- 6 come up with a solution to that. At this point, I
- 7 can't promise it will be the solution, but again, the
- 8 city, DDOT, would love to have more access to the
- 9 waterfront. We would love to have less separation
- 10 between the community and the waterfront and the parks,
- 11 but again, we have to work with our counterparts, CSX
- 12 to get to that solution. I don't know if by the end of
- 13 this process we will have that or not, but we, from our
- 14 perspective, are really pushing for that.
- 15 MR. UNDELAND: All right. We have one final
- 16 speaker, Brent Johnson.
- 17 MR. JOHNSON: Hi. My name is Brent Johnson.
- 18 I live at 312 I Street. I have two questions that can
- 19 hopefully be answered by somebody from CSX.
- 1) How plausible is it to do Concepts 2
- 21 through 7 in block chunks and whether that will speed
- 22 up the construction on that particular chunk?

- 2) Since I do live on that block, the 1 access to my garage goes right onto Virginia Avenue, so the project would clearly end it as it is now. 3 plausible is it for you to take the difference between where you're going to end the project and where the house begins and cut an alley to the street so I can 7 get to my garage? Thanks. MR. HAMEED: Keith, Chip, or Steve, who wants 8 to answer. Introduce yourself first and what you do at 10 CSX. 11 MR. GULLUCKSON: Good evening. I'm Chuck Gulluckson with CSX. Yes, as part of the NEPA process, 12 13 we're certainly going to look at the construction phase and see what can be done. It's certainly our desire to 14 15 lessen impacts on anybody in that area, for certain. 16 That's why we're here. We certainly are going to look 17 at that to see what can be done as far as that construction stage and such. 19 Also, at the same time, as part of the
 - 21 access and emergency access, all those things are being 22 looked at and are going to be brought in through the

maintenance of traffic, looking at transit, looking at

		83	
1	CERTIFICATE OF NOTARY PUBLIC		
2	I, GERVEL A. WATTS, the officer before whom the		
3	foregoing deposition was taken, do hereby certify that		
4	the testimony that appears in the foregoing pages was		
5	recorded by me and thereafter reduced to typewriting		
6	under my direction; that said deposition is a true		
7	record of the proceedings; that I am neither counsel		
8	for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties to		
9	the action in which this deposition was taken; and		
10	further, that I am not a relative or employee of any		
11	counsel or attorney employed by the parties hereto, nor		
12	financially or otherwise interested in the outcome of		
13	this action.		
14			
15			
16			
17	GERVEL A. WATTS Notary Public in and for the		
18	District of Columbia		
19	My Commission expires: January 31, 2014		
20			
21			
22			

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