

Columbia Heights Neighborhood  
Charlestown, RI 02813  
(401) 309-3893

January 24, 2017

Ms. Rebecca Reyes-Alicea  
NEC FUTURE  
U.S. DOT Federal Railroad Administration  
One Bowling Green Suite 429  
New York, NY 10004



**RE: FRA TIER 1 EIS – HISTORIC COLUMBIA HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD IMPACTS**

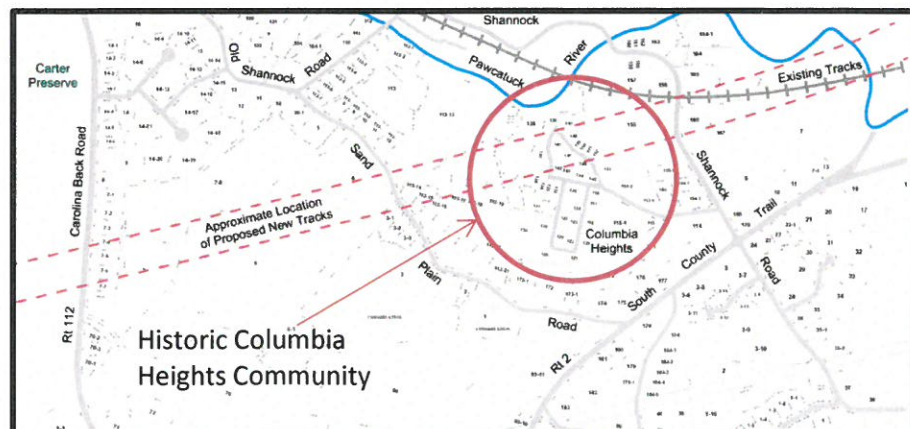
U.S. DOT Federal Railroad Administration;

The Federal Railroad Administration's (FRA) proposal as stated in the December 2016 Tier 1 Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to straighten the railroad tracks of the Northeast Corridor Old Saybrook to Kenyon Bypass will permanently alter, denigrate and damage the environmental and socioeconomic fabric of Charlestown, Rhode Island.

Many residents are concerned with the severe impact to our unique and treasured protected wetlands and surface water bodies, woodlands, fields, critical habitats, Tribal resources and historic farms, and we are just as concerned as others. However, we submit our comment as residents of the historic, working class neighborhood of Columbia Heights, which would be devastated by this proposal.

The Columbia Heights neighborhood is an historic community unique to Rhode Island. Constructed in 1918 as a mill village community for the Clarke's Mill at Horseshoe Falls in Shannock, the neighborhood was hailed for its innovative design in providing modern worker housing of that era. The dwellings all reflect the sturdy craftsman style construction of the period and most have been restored. The entire neighborhood is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Many families with children reside in the neighborhood and a new playground was constructed in January 2017 in Clark Town Park at Columbia Heights. There exists a tight-knit sense of community within our neighborhood; everyone knows everyone and we all watch out for each other.

The EIS details a rail re-route that transects directly through at least 20 of our historic family dwellings in this quiet neighborhood, where many of Charlestown's working class families live. We are proud, hardworking families who



are integral to the Town's socioeconomic fabric. Those remaining homes that are not demolished would have a front row seat to a >200 mph train and be subjected to crippling property value losses.

Furthermore, approximately \$6 million in federal, state and local dollars has been expended in the Columbia Heights and Shannock neighborhoods over the past two decades as part of public infrastructure improvement projects. These include the creation of a public water district, housing rehabilitation, brownfields assessment and remediation, streetscape and beautification. The proposed rail project would completely nullify the benefits brought on by these investments.

The Federal Railroad Administration's proposal would be devastating to our families' lives, destroy a unique piece of Rhode Island history, and forever negatively alter our Town's identity. Therefore, we implore the Federal Railroad Administration to terminate the rail modification as proposed through our Town.

We also request that our Senators Reed and Whitehouse, Congressman Langevin, Governor Raimondo, State Senators Algieri and Morgan, State Representative Filippi, the Charlestown Town Council and all of our residents to work together and stop this proposed rail re-alignment project.

Sincerely,

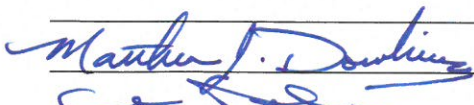







The concerned residents and families of the Columbia Heights Neighborhood (signed below).

Cc:

Senator Jack Reed  
Senator Sheldon Whitehouse  
Congressman Jim Langevin  
Governor Gina Raimondo  
State Senator Denis Algieri  
State Senator Elaine Morgan  
State Representative Blake Filippi  
The Charlestown Town Council

Name

Address

	30 COLUMBIA HEIGHTS OVAL
	30 Columbia Heights Oval
	31 Columbia Heights Oval
	111 Scape Flow Rd.
	50 Columbia Heights Oval
	50 Columbia Heights Oval
	4380 S. County Tr. 1, Charlestown, RI
	60 Columbia Heights Oval
Nancy Gannon	95 Columbia Heights Rd, Charlestown



Name	Address
Bruce & Sue Walker	55 Columbia Heights oval
high on 0 to	62 Columbia Heights oval
Kelly Jo Miners	55 Columbia Heights oval
Hattie Ann Sullivan	76 Columbia Heights Oval
Angel	62 COLUMBIA HEIGHTS oval
Dee Cey	31 Larking Pond Rd N
Victoria LaValley	95 Columbia heights
Mario Champin	70 Columbia heights oval
Rebecca Kinsey	81 Columbia heights oval
Meyer Champin	70 Columbia heights oval
John Champin	70 Columbia heights oval
Cathy Champin	70 Columbia heights oval
John Kelly	5 Ward Ave No. Prov. Rd 02904
MARIA SIKTA	5 WARD AVE No Providence 02904
Sharon Hatten	105 Columbia Hts. Charlestown
Ruth C. Boychard	105A Columbia Hts Charlestown
Don H. Boychard	105B Columbia Hts
Gray Richmond	105 Columbia Heights
Meressa Greene	101 Columbia Heights
Edward Greene	101 Columbia Heights
Rinda Mattson	101 Columbia Height
Rosa Richmond	101 Columbia Height
Susan Lambert	101 Columbia Heights
Susan Carr	101 Columbia Heights
Rex Blandell	101 Columbia Hts.
Theresa Carr	" "
Wanda Mattson	101 Columbia Hts
Christa Richland	77 Columbia Hts.
Kurt St	2 Columbia Heights Rd
Dark Mark	15 Columbia Heights Oval
Kelly Mauro	15 Columbia Heights Oval
Brian Sanderson	40 Columbia Heights Oval
	20 Columbia Heights Oval



Name	Address
JUSTIN T ANDERSON	10 Columbia Hr Durnal
Elaine M Lucier	52 Columbia Heights Road
Cathy Jones Hall	114 B Columbia Hgts
Charles E Hall	114 B Columbia Hgts
Jane Jones	Palmer Ma
Bambi Hall	114 A Columbia Hgt
Robert H. S. Jr.	114 A Columbia Hgts
Steven J. Gentile	62 C Columbia Hgts
Donna Gentile	62 C Columbia Heights, Rd.
Dana J. Gentile	62 A Columbia Heights Rd.
Miriam Depore	62 A Columbia Heights Rd.
David Simoli	62 A Columbia Heights Rd.
Neather Faubert	39 Columbia Heights Rd.
Richard Bates	27 Columbia Height Rd.
Ashley Allyn	122 Columbia Heights rd.
Denise Sisson	20 Columbia Heights oval
Sonia Sisson	20 Columbia Heights oval
Loree Sisson	20 Columbia Heights oval