



LEON S. KENISON
COMMISSIONER

THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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Approved
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Bureau of Rail & Transit

October 14, 1996

His Excellency, Stephen Merrill, Governor
and the Honorable Council
State House
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Re: Purchase of Railroad Property

REQUESTED RESOLUTION

RESOLVED that the Governor and Council authorize the Commissioner of the Department of Transportation to enter into a Purchase and Sale Agreement with the New Hampshire and Vermont Railroad Company, Inc., a division of CSF Acquisitions, Inc., PO Box 1267, Trenton, FL 32693-1267 (Vendor #55238) to acquire certain abandoned portions of the Berlin Branch railroad line in Grafton and Coos Counties. The total purchase price is \$1,540,000; the sale will take place in two phases, of which the first phase will involve payment of \$1,000,000.

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Comptroller be authorized to encumber the sum of \$1,000,000 as follows:

Appropriation Account 015-096-3078-090-0308: \$840,000
Appropriation Account 015-096-3054-090-0308: \$160,000

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation be authorized to accept \$32,000 in private funds to be deposited into Account 015-096-3054-005.

EXPLANATION

The New Hampshire and Vermont Railroad has petitioned the U.S. Surface Transportation Board to abandon approximately 38 miles of the former Berlin Branch railroad line in two segments: between MP 93.7 in Woodsville and MP 113.0 in Littleton, and between MP 130.5 in

Jefferson and MP 149.4 in Gorham. The Department of Transportation has negotiated the purchase of these portions of the line for a total of \$1,540,000. This purchase will take place in two phases: phase 1, the segment between Woodsville and Littleton, and the bridge over the St. Lawrence & Atlantic Railroad and its approaches in Gorham; and phase 2, the segment between Jefferson (Waumbek Junction) and Gorham. There is currently no rail traffic on these segments of the line, and the active portion of the line between Littleton and Jefferson will remain active and will connect to other railroads via the Groveton Branch line.

The purpose of this acquisition is to preserve the rail corridor for recreational and future transportation use. Certain portions of the corridor in Haverhill and Bath-Lisbon will be used for highway improvement projects in those communities, to allow more efficient and cost-effective design of the Haverhill-Bath bridge replacement project and the Bath-Lisbon Route 302 reconstruction project. Acquisition of the railroad bridge at Gorham will permit removal of the bridge span over the St. Lawrence & Atlantic Railroad, which is the only obstacle to double-stack freight service on that line between Auburn, Maine and Montreal. The availability of double-stack freight service will reduce truck traffic in the I-95 corridor from Maine to Massachusetts and improve air quality. The St. Lawrence & Atlantic Railroad will provide the \$32,000 non-federal share of that project. Rail service to the Berlin area over the former New Hampshire and Vermont Railroad line will still be possible using the St. Lawrence & Atlantic Railroad.

Phase 2 of the acquisition will take place in 1997, and is contingent on appropriation of funds by the Legislature.

The Department of Transportation has certified that the funds to be encumbered for phase 1 of this purchase are available.

Your approval of this resolution is respectfully requested.

Sincerely,



Leon S. Kenison
Commissioner

LSK/CM

11-26-96 : Check 550533 \$960,000