Surface Transportation Board
Uinta Basin Railway Environmental Impact Statement
Section 106 Consulting Parties Kick Off Teleconference Notes
January 22, 2020

Meeting Participants

Surface Transportation Board, Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) – Alan Tabachnick, Joshua Wayland
Bureau of Land Management (BLM) – Roger Bankert, William Brant, Amber Koski
U.S. Forest Service (USFS) – Jeffrey Rust
Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) – Chris Secakuku
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) – John Eddins
Utah State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) – Savanna Agardy
Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah and Ouray Reservation – Betsy Chapoose, Steve Nelson, Sonja Willie
Utah Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office (PLPCO) – Kris Carambelas
Carbon County – Casey Hopes, Todd Thorne
Uintah County – Matt Cazier, Ross Watson
Duchesne County – Gregory Todd
Seven County Infrastructure Coalition (Consultants)
HDR – Melissa Cano, Andrea Clayton, Catherine Dobbs, Kevin Keller, Tony Klaumann, Karen Nichols
Jones and DeMille – Brian Barton, Jenna Jorgensen
Venable – Amanda Crawford
SWCA – Kelly Beck, Anne Oliver
Utah State Institutional Trust Lands Administration – Joel Boomgarden
Nine Mile Canyon Coalition – Dennis Willis
Colorado Plateau Archeological Alliance – Jerry Spangler
ICF – Colleen Davis, Chris Moelter, Debi Rogers, Mikenna Wolff

Undertaking / Project Description

- Josh Wayland (OEA) provided an overview of the project/undertaking. He described:
    - the project purpose and need and alternatives, including the Coalition's preferred alternative
    - the roles of the Board and the Coalition
    - the Cooperating Agencies
    - a brief history of the NEPA process and the general resources to be considered in the EIS

- Josh shared the project alternative maps and identified some key project elements and features, including the challenging terrain and different tunnel locations.

Consultation to Date

- Alan Tabachnick (OEA) presented the consultation timeline and identified the entities that have formally accepted and formally declined the invitation to become consulting parties.
- There were no questions on the consultation to date.
- Alan welcomed recommendations for other entities to invite to become consulting parties. He noted that OEA wishes to have an inclusive Section 106 consultation process.
- Alan explained that confidentiality throughout the Section 106 process is an important priority for OEA.

Identification and Evaluation Effort

- Collen Davis (ICF) noted that the Coalition's consultant is conducting the surveys. She presented a map of locations where the Coalition's consultant has performed literature review, archeological survey, and historic architecture survey. She also presented maps showing OEA's preliminary Area of Potential Effects, currently being refined.
- Alan Tabachnick (OEA) described the draft APE and identified project elements that would be in the APE. Alan also described how the APE changes in different areas, for example, based on the height of project elements.
- Betsy Chapoose (Ute Tribe) asked how tribes were selected to participate in Section 106 consultation. She explained that the area of concern is within the Ute Reservation and crosses Tribal land and asked how other tribes were selected to receive invitations to be consulting parties in the 106 process.
    - OEA will reach out to Betsy to set up a separate conversation to discuss how the other tribal entities were selected for invitations to consult.

Next Steps

- Alan Tabachnick (OEA) outlined the next steps in the Section 106 consultation process. The next consulting parties meeting will be on February 26, 2020.
- Alan reviewed the proposed content for the upcoming meetings through July 2020.

Draft Agenda for Next Call

- Review APE
- Opportunity for Comments on APE
- Preview Identification and Evaluation Results

Questions

- Jerry Spangler (Colorado Plateau Archeological Alliance) asked if a literature review has been completed and written up.

    - Colleen Davis (ICF) explained that a literature review has been undertaken by the Coalition's consultant and OEA has been provided with a draft report, which includes the results of their literature review.
    - Jerry requested that the literature review be provided to the consulting parties as soon as possible.
    - Alan Tabachnick (OEA) explained that OEA is reviewing the files now, but will look at ways to accelerate the timing and provide the literature review to the consulting parties.
- Dennis Willis (Nine Mile Canyon Coalition) asked if higher-resolution mapping can be provided compared to what is available on the website. He noted that his organization has concerns about indirect effects being captured in the APE, specifically cross-slope locations where the rail line will focus the drainage and concentrate downstream erosion. Dennis noted that the Nine Mile Canyon area and historic structures are prone to flash flooding and erosion.
- Joel Boomgarden (SITLA) asked if the consulting parties can be provided with copies of GIS shapefiles.
    - Betsy Chapoose (Ute Tribe) noted that the Ute Business Council should be consulted with in advance of providing any detailed mapping on tribal lands.
    - Josh Wayland (OEA) explained that KMZ files showing the alternatives centerlines are available on the project website. These files are located on the page titled "Documents and Links".
        - Josh agreed to convert this information to GIS shapefiles and provide them to SITLA.

<u>Action Items</u>

- OEA/ICF Actions
    - OEA will reach out to Betsy Chapoose to set up a separate conversation to discuss how other tribal entities were selected for invitations to consult.
    - OEA will look at ways to provide the literature review results to consulting parties as soon as possible.
    - OEA will send Joel Boomgarden GIS shapefiles of the alternative's centerlines.