



Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office

PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL AND MUSEUM COMMISSION

December 15, 2023

Tim Zinn
Michael Baker International, Inc.
100 Airside Drive
MoonTownship, PA 151080000

RE: ER Project # 2018PR13984.031, NORFOLK SOUTHERN PITTSBURGH VERTICAL CLEARANCE,
Department of Transportation (PennDOT), Pittsburgh City, Allegheny County

Dear Mr. Zinn,

Thank you for submitting information concerning the above referenced project. The Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office (PA SHPO) reviews projects in accordance with state and federal laws. Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, and the implementing regulations (36 CFR Part 800) of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, is the primary federal legislation. The Environmental Rights amendment, Article 1, Section 27 of the Pennsylvania Constitution and the Pennsylvania History Code, 37 Pa. Cons. Stat. Section 500 et seq. (1988) is the primary state legislation. These laws include consideration of the project's potential effects on both historic and archaeological resources.

Above Ground Resources

We appreciate the collaborative efforts made to design the West North Avenue Bridge and the Allegheny Commons Bridge in in the Allegheny Commons Historic District in coordination with the local preservation interests and PA SHPO and to enlist the opinions of a variety of professionals including architects, landscape architects, and engineers. We also appreciate efforts to ensure the design conforms to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties.

We are in general agreement with the proposed design for the West North Avenue Bridge and the reconstruction of the low brick retaining wall from the Simonds & Simonds mid-1960s redesign as part of efforts to minimize effects to historic properties.

The proposed new pedestrian bridge will introduce a new structure into the district in the former location of a pedestrian bridge. To accommodate ADA requirements and the height of the new structure, it will be necessary to introduce new pathways and some grading in the park. We appreciate the new paths will be designed to be no wider than the existing abutments and efforts are being made to minimize changes to historic landscaping. These will help to minimize the impacts of the new circulation system on the character of the district.

Please provide more detailed information as to why it is not possible to retain the approach stairs from the previous bridge. As the 60% design process approaches, we would appreciate the development of renderings of the new Allegheny Commons bridge, especially the approach plazas being designed as part of Option 5a.

We look forward to continued consultation on the project.

For questions concerning above ground resources, please contact Barbara Frederick at bafrederic@pa.gov.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Emma Diehl".

Emma Diehl

Environmental Review Division Manager