

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT MEETING

For the Proposed Chickasaw Railroad Lead Line Project

**Thursday, February 29th, 2024
Hope Community Center
850 Edwards Street
Mobile, Alabama, 36610
5:30 P.M. to 7:30 P.M.**



**U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Railroad Administration**

and

Alabama State Port Authority



Dear Citizen:

Welcome and thank you for attending this Public Involvement Meeting (PIM) for the proposed:

Chickasaw Railroad Lead Line Project

The purpose of the PIM is to provide information to the community on the Federal Railroad Administration's (FRA) requirements for federally funded projects, including the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (historic places). The PIM is also an opportunity for the public to provide input on the proposed Project.

A brief presentation will begin at 6:00 PM. Following the presentation, representatives from the Alabama State Port Authority (ASPA) and the FRA will be available to discuss the scope of the project, review project mapping, and discuss potential impacts the project may have on environmental and cultural resources.

For accurate documentation, you are encouraged to submit written comments during this evening's meeting on the attached comment card by March 29, 2024, or to the address listed below. Additional comment cards are available at <https://volkert.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Chickasaw-Comment-Form.pdf>

Volkert, Inc.
1680 West 2nd Street, Suite B
Gulf Shores, AL 36542

Comments can also be submitted electronically via e-mail at: Chickasaw.Lead.Line@volkert.com

For those who were unable to attend the PIM, the following additional opportunities are available to meet with the FRA and ASPA at the Hope Community Center Multi-Purpose Room.

Friday, March 1st, from 9:00 AM to Noon
OR 3:00 to 6:00 PM
Saturday, March 2nd, from 9:00 AM to Noon

We thank you for your interest, attendance, and participation.

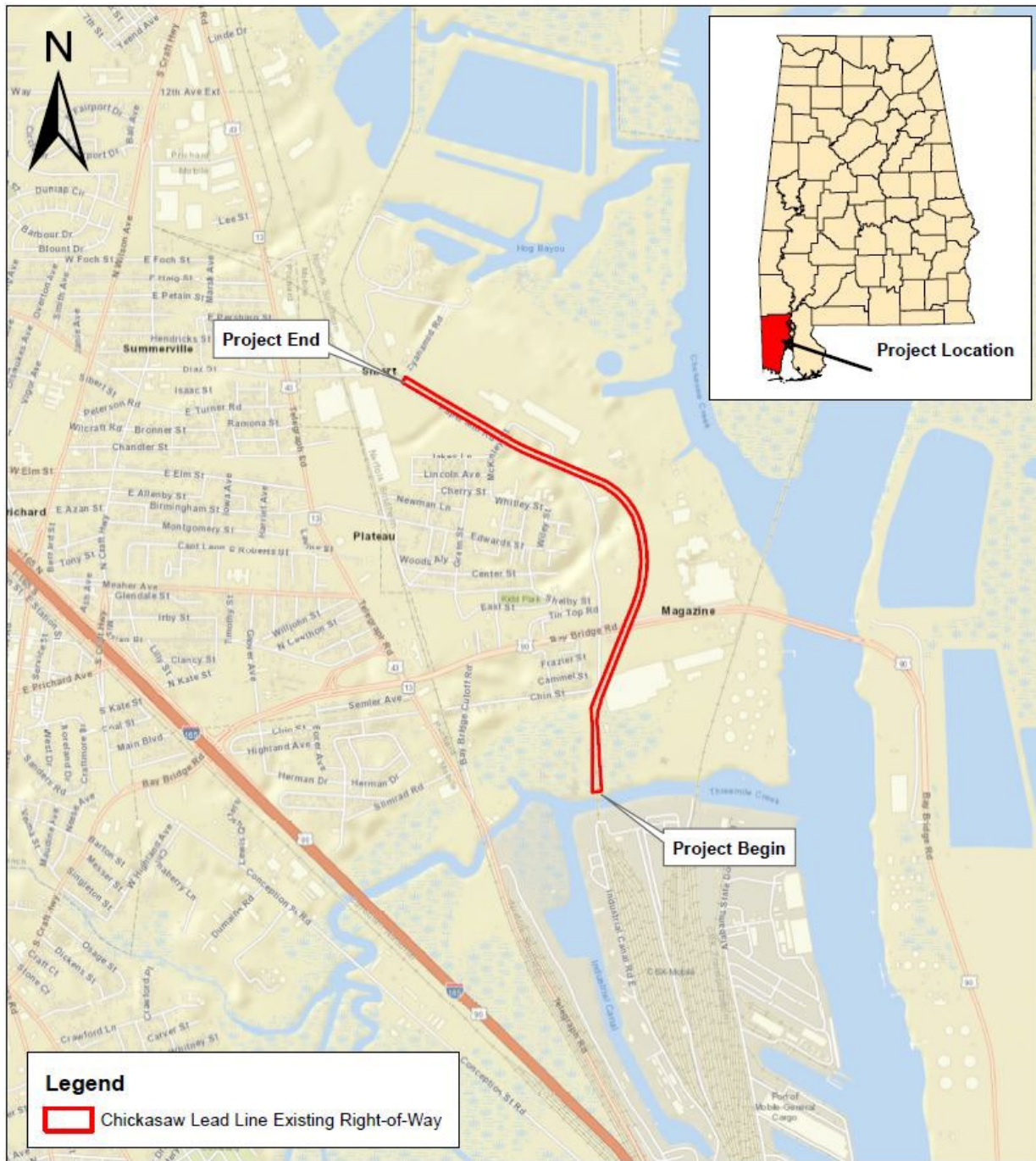
Project Description:

The proposed project includes the construction of approximately 1.9 miles of new siding track, paralleling the existing Terminal Alabama State Docks (TASD) track. A project location map is included in this handout package. The new sidetrack will begin approximately 100-feet north of the existing railroad bridge over Threemile Creek and will merge back into the existing TASD track south of Berg Spiral Pipe Road. The new sidetrack will be constructed within the existing TASD right-of-way (ROW); however, temporary construction easements (TCE) will be needed for grading and drainage improvements. Construction will consist of grading, drainage improvements, improvements to five existing at-grade road crossings, and the installation of a new sidetrack constructed approximately 15-foot from the centerline of the existing TASD track. The deck of the existing TASD railroad bridge under Africatown Boulevard will also be replaced. Two abandoned at-grade road crossings and a pedestrian bridge over the existing TASD railroad near Log Delivery Road will also be removed as a part of the Project. The abandoned at-grade road crossings were associated with past industrial uses. Changes in industrial land use have led to these crossings no longer being used. The pedestrian bridge was also used in the past when large employee parking lots for industries were located west of the TASD railroad track. The industries have changed and the parking lots for employees west of the TASD railroad track are no longer needed. The old employees' parking lots have been re-purposed and as a result, the pedestrian bridge is no longer used. In addition, the opening beneath the pedestrian bridge will not accommodate the new sidetrack. The proposed project will not alter the existing drainage patterns or create new water discharge points.

Purpose and Need:

The purpose of the proposed Chickasaw Railroad Lead Line Project is to improve the efficiency of the TASD railroad system north of the TASD interchange yard. Under the existing conditions, only one track exists for much of the distance between the TASD interchange yard northward to Berg Spiral Pipe Road. When a train stops along this portion of the track, other trains are forced to stop on the mainline track. This condition results in congestion along the TASD mainline track, within the TASD yard, and on the nearby Alabama Gulf Coast Railway and Norfolk Southern Railroad tracks. In addition, under the existing conditions, the congestion leads to trains frequently idling for hours. The proposed project will allow trains up to 10,000- feet, or approximately 175 cars to be moved off the TASD mainline track to the new sidetrack while waiting for trains to pass. The new sidetrack will also reduce idle times.

Proposed Chickasaw Railroad Lead Line Project Location Map



Chickasaw Railroad Lead Line Project

Public Involvement Meeting Comment Form

Please Print

NAME: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

Please check all that apply.

Area Resident _____* Area Business _____* Property Owner _____**

Please provide Physical Address if different from Mailing Address above:

Concerned Citizen _____ Nonprofit Organization _____

Elected Official _____ Governmental Representative _____

Comments on the proposed project: *(Attach additional sheets, if necessary)*

One item of special importance to us is the identification of historical properties in the project area. Historic properties are those that are determined to have significance because they were associated with an important historical event, person, or type of architecture. A historic property can be important on a local, state, or national level.

Please give any comments you have concerning historical properties:

Mail: Volkert, Inc.
1680 West 2nd Street,
Suite B
Gulf Shores, AL 36542

E-mail: Chickasaw.Lead.Line@volkert.com

Comments mailed must be postmarked on or before **March 29, 2024**.