

# DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, SAVANNAH DISTRICT 4751 BEST ROAD, SUITE 140 COLLEGE PARK, GEORGIA 30337-5600

February 15, 2022

Regulatory Division SAS-2007-01541

# JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE Savannah District/State of Georgia

The Savannah District has received an application for a Department of the Army Permit, pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. § 1344), as follows:

The comment period for the Department of the Army Permit application will close 30 days from the date of this public notice. Written comments, including suggestions for modifications or objections to the proposed work, stating reasons thereof, are being solicited from anyone having interest in this permit, and must be submitted to be received on or before the last day of the comment period. Written comments concerning this Department of the Army Permit application must reference the Applicant's name and the Permit Application Number and be forwarded to the US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) at the above address.

This Joint Public Notice announces a request for authorizations from both the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the State of Georgia. The applicant's proposed work may also require local governmental approval.

Application Number: SAS-2007-01541

Applicant: Mr. Matthew Adkins

CSX Transportation, Inc. 1590 Marietta Blvd NW Atlanta, GA 30318

Agent: Mr. W. Troy Neisz

Wood Environment and Infrastructure Solutions

216 Centerview Drive, Suite 300

Brentwood, TN 37027

<u>Location of Proposed Work</u>: The proposed project site is located along the east side of existing CSX railroad tracks from Milepost (MP) XXB 82.4 extending south approximately 0.30 mile to the Webb Road-CSXT grade crossing near Gabbettville, in Troup County, Georgia. The central coordinates of the site are latitude 32.928706 north and longitude -85.136731 west.

<u>Description of Work Subject to the Jurisdiction of the Corps</u>: The project involves the extension of the existing SE Gabbettville Siding approximately 1,900 feet south to Webb

Road. Completion of the extension would result in a 13,167-foot-long siding. The extension of the siding would include the construction of an access road and the extension of two existing culverts. A section of Long Cane Creek would be relocated near the north end of the project. The Applicant's plan would result in the loss of 181 linear feet of three perennial stream channels, and 0.91 acre of wetlands. There would be temporary impacts to an additional 0.25 acre of wetlands. The Applicant proposes to off-set project impacts to aquatic resources through the purchase of 6.24 legacy wetland mitigation credits and 1,527.30 legacy stream mitigation credits from the Blue Creek Mitigation Bank.

## STATE OF GEORGIA

Water Quality Certification: The Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division will review the proposed project for Water Quality Certification, in accordance with the provisions of Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. The applicant has requested a Water Quality Certification from the State of Georgia. Prior to issuance of a Department of the Army Permit for a project located in, on, or adjacent to the waters of the State of Georgia, review for Water Quality Certification in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act is required. A reasonable period of time, which shall not exceed one year, is established under the Clean Water Act for the State to act on a request for Water Quality Certification, after which, issuance of such a Department of the Army Permit may proceed. This public notice serves as notification to the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) pursuant to section 401(a)(2) of the Clean Water Act for neighboring jurisdiction review and begins the 30-day clock for USEPA to notify affected states.

<u>State-owned Property and Resources</u>: The applicant may also require assent from the State of Georgia, which may be in the form of a license, easement, lease, permit or another appropriate instrument.

#### U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

The Savannah District must consider the purpose and the impacts of the applicant's proposed work, prior to a decision on issuance of a Department of the Army Permit.

<u>Cultural Resources Assessment</u>: The Applicant did not provide a Phase I cultural resource survey of the proposed project site, which would assess if potential archaeological sites, historic structures, or cultural resources may be present within the general vicinity of the proposed work area. The Corps has requested a Phase I cultural resource survey of the proposed project site be provided. Presently unknown archaeological, scientific, prehistoric, or historical data may also be located at the site and could be affected by the proposed work.

Endangered Species: Pursuant to Section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. § 1531 et seq.), we request information from the U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service, or any other interested party, on whether any species listed or proposed for listing may be present in the area. Based on the *IPaC Trust Resource Report* for the project site, one threatened species, the eastern black rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis*) is likely to occur on the subject property.

<u>Public Interest Review</u>: The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact, including cumulative impacts, of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors that may be relevant to the proposal will be considered, including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are: conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership, and in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

Consideration of Public Comments: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Native American Tribes; and other interested parties to properly consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition, or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest in the proposed activity.

Application of Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines: The proposed activity involves the discharge of dredged or fill material into the waters of the United States. The Savannah District's evaluation of the impact of the activity on the public interest will include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, under the authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act,

including an evaluation of practicable alternatives. In the Applicant's current proposal, no alternatives to the project have been proposed.

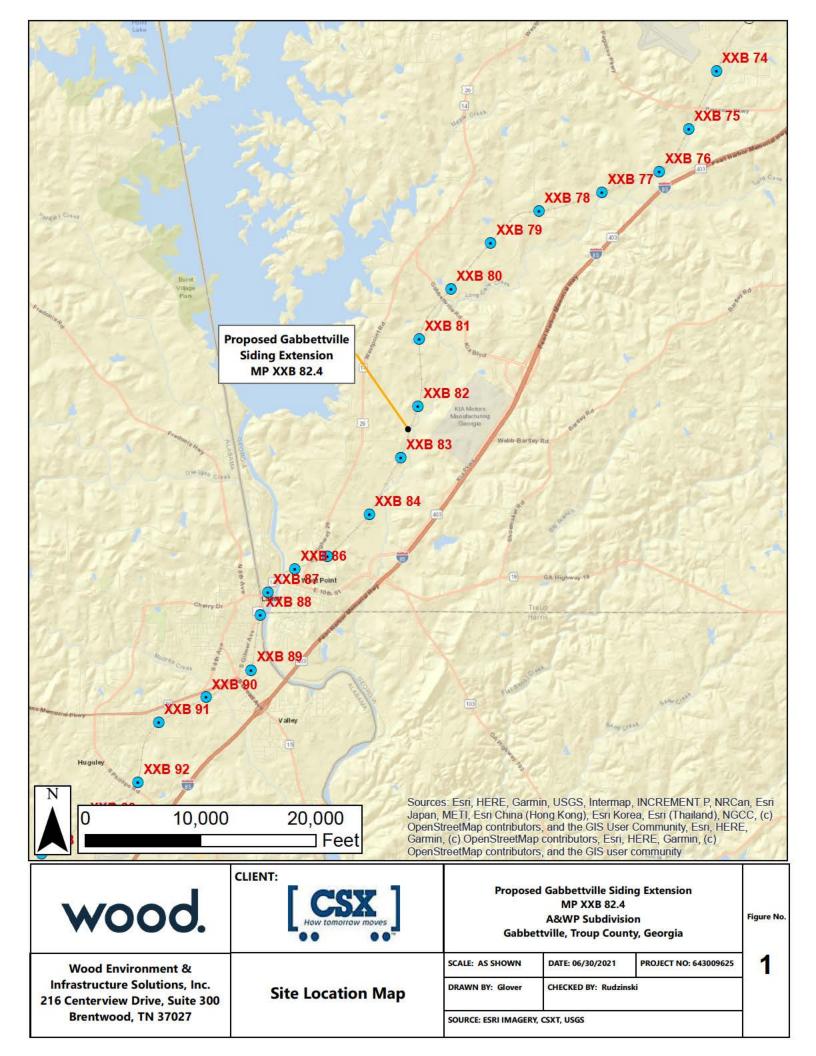
<u>Public Hearing</u>: Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application for a Department of the Army permit. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for requesting a public hearing. The decision whether to hold a public hearing is at the discretion of the District Engineer, or his designated appointee, based on the need for additional substantive information necessary for evaluating the proposed project.

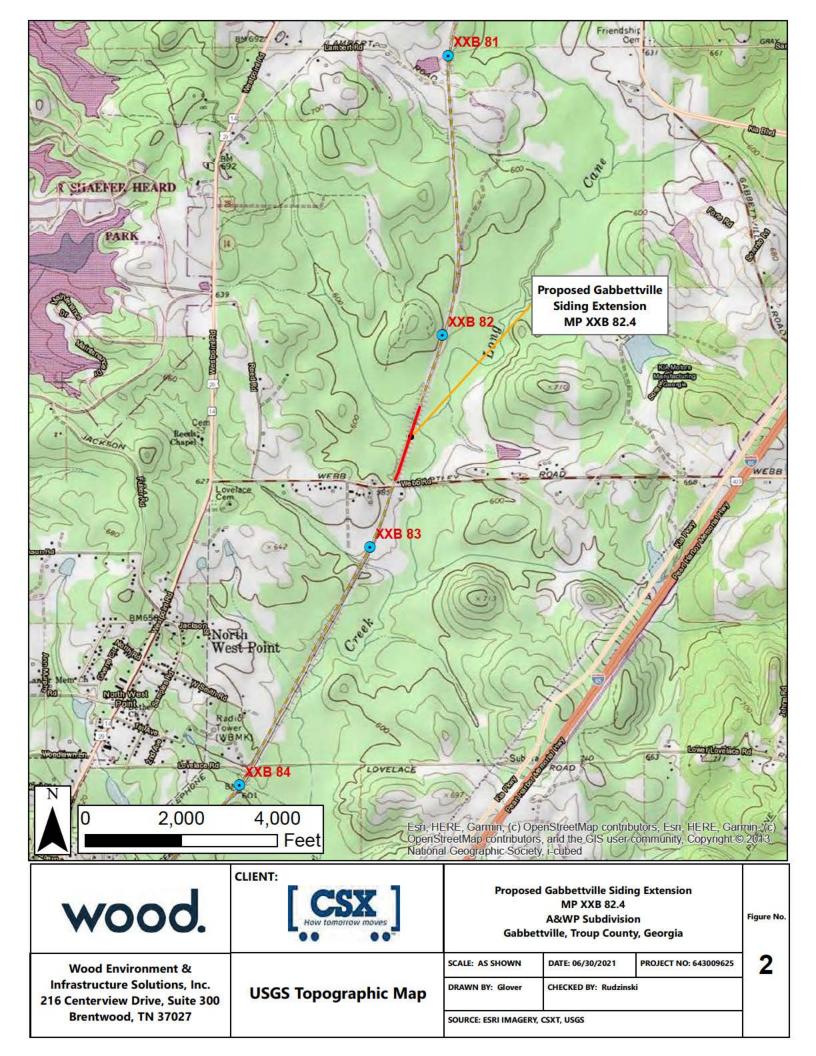
<u>Comment Period</u>: Anyone wishing to comment on this application for a Department of the Army Permit should submit comments via email to <a href="mailto:amy.k.egoroff@usace.army.mil">amy.k.egoroff@usace.army.mil</a> or in writing to: Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District, Attention: Amy Egoroff, 4751 Best Road, Suite 140, College Park, Georgia 30337-5600, no later than **30 days** from the date of this notice. Please refer to the Applicant's name (CSX Transportation, Inc.) and the assigned Regulatory file number (SAS-2007-01541) in your comments.

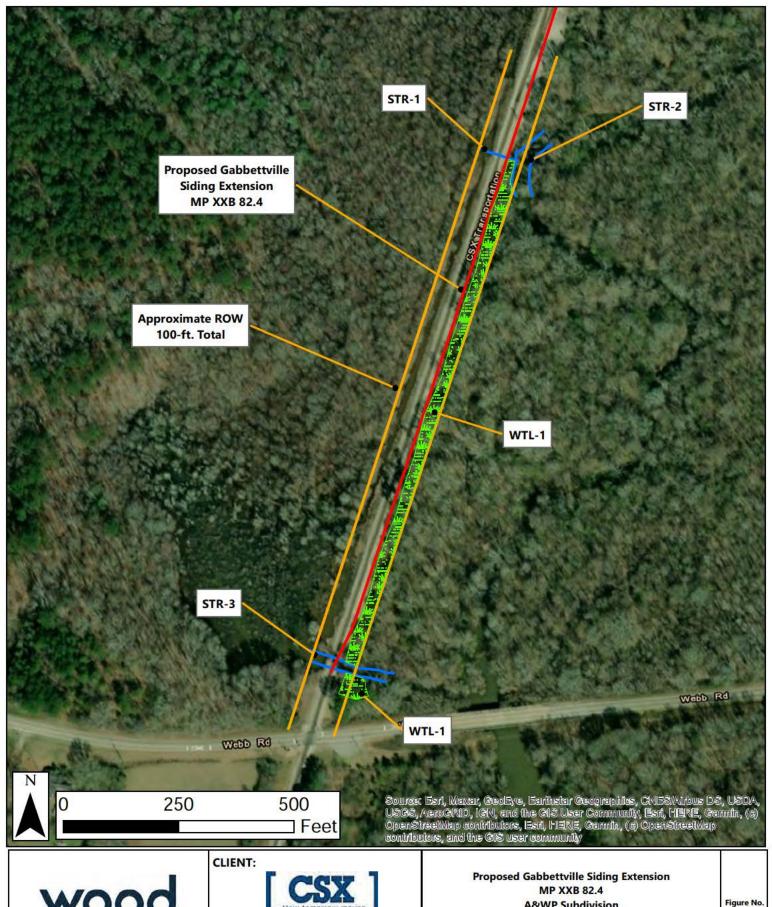
If you have any further questions concerning this public notice, please contact Amy K. Egoroff, Project Manager, Piedmont Branch at 678-422-6751, or <a href="mailto:amy.k.egoroff@usace.army.mil">amy.k.egoroff@usace.army.mil</a>.

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- 1. Figure 1: Site Location Map
- 2. Figure 2: U.S.G.S. Topographic Map
- 3. Figure 6: Delineated Feature Map
- 4. Concept Plan
- 5. Erosion Control Plan Phase 3









**Wood Environment &** Infrastructure Solutions, Inc. 216 Centerview Drive, Suite 300 Brentwood, TN 37027



**A&WP Subdivision** Lanett, Chambers County, Alabama

PROJECT NO: 643009625 SCALE: AS SHOWN DATE: 06/30/2021

**Delineated Feature Map** 

CHECKED BY: Rudzinski DRAWN BY: Glover

SOURCE: ESRI IMAGERY, CSXT

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