



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

## Department of Historic Resources

2801 Kensington Avenue, Richmond, Virginia 23221

Travis A. Voyles  
*Acting Secretary of Natural and  
Historic Resources*

Julie V. Langan  
*Director*  
Tel: (804) 482-6446  
Fax: (804) 367-2391  
[www.dhr.virginia.gov](http://www.dhr.virginia.gov)

1 February 2023

Ms. Amanda Murphy  
Department of Transportation  
Federal Railroad Administration  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590

RE: SEHSR DC2RVA Re-initiation of Consultation and Effect Determination to Shockoe Hill Burying Ground Historic District and Shockoe Hill African Burying Ground, City of Richmond  
DHR File No. 2014-0666

Dear Ms. Murphy:

The Department of Historic Resources (DHR) has received the letter dated 20 January 2023 from the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) re-initiating consultation for the Southeast Highspeed Rail (SEHSR), Washington, D.C. to Richmond, Virginia, (DC2RVA) segment pursuant to Stipulations III.A.1.a and III.A.1.b of the Second Amendment to the undertaking's Memorandum of Agreement (MOA). These citations in the MOA require FRA to re-open consultation with DHR and the other consulting parties on the recently National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) listed Shockoe Hill Burying Ground Historic District (DHR Inventory No. 127-7231) and the contributing Shockoe Hill African Burying Ground (Site 44HE1203), and to assess project effects on the two historic properties.

In accordance with 36 CFR §800.5 and Stipulation III.A.1.b of the Second Amendment to the SEHSR MOA, FRA has determined the proposed undertaking will alter characteristics of the Shockoe Hill Burying Ground Historic District (127-7231) and the

Western Region Office  
962 Kime Lane  
Salem, VA 24153  
Tel: (540) 387-5443  
Fax: (540) 387-5446

Northern Region Office  
5357 Main Street  
PO Box 519  
Stephens City, VA 22655  
Tel: (540) 868-7029  
Fax: (540) 868-7033

Eastern Region Office  
2801 Kensington Avenue  
Richmond, VA 23221  
Tel: (804) 367-2323  
Fax: (804) 367-2391

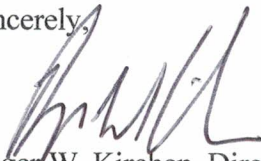
Page 2  
1 February 2023  
Ms. Amanda Murphy

Shockoe Hill African Burying Ground (Site 44HE1203) which make them eligible for listing in the NRHP. Therefore, FRA recommends the undertaking will have an Adverse Effect on these two historic properties. The DHR concurs with this assessment.

As a next step, FRA plans to coordinate with the Signatories to the Second Amendment to the MOA and consulting parties with an identified interest in the Shockoe Hill Burying Ground Historic District and the Shockoe Hill African Burying Ground to discuss ways that will avoid or minimize the adverse effects on the historic properties. To begin this discussion, FRA will schedule a consulting parties meeting within the coming months. The DHR looks forward to participating in such a meeting.

If you have any questions about our comments, please contact Marc Holma, Senior Architectural Historian, Division of Review and Compliance, at (804) 482-6090.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Kirchen', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Roger W. Kirchen, Director  
Division of Review and Compliance