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January 7, 2025
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Public Record

Ms. Cynthia T. Brown
Chief of the Section of Administration, Office of Proceedings
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, D. C. 20423

RE: Docket No. AB-55 (Sub-No. 794X) *CSX Transportation, Inc.—Abandonment Exemption—
in Pinellas County, FL*

Dear Ms. Brown:

Pursuant to 49 CFR 1152.29(d)(1)(ii), the City of St. Petersburg (the “City”) requests a one-year extension until January 12, 2026 to continue to negotiate trail use under a Notice of Interim Trail Use of Abandonment (“NITU”) with CSX Transportation, Inc. (“CSXT”) for an approximately 0.86-mile rail line on its Clearwater Subdivision, from milepost ARE 897.57 to milepost ARE 898.42, in St. Petersburg, Pinellas County (the “Line”).

By Decision and Notice of Interim Trail Use or Abandonment in *CSX Transportation, Inc. — Abandonment Exemption—in Pinellas County, Fla.*, Docket No. AB 55 (Sub-No. 794X) (served January 12, 2024), the Board granted the City’s request for a NITU for one year, which is set to expire on January 12, 2025.

The City and CSXT have been diligently working cooperatively towards a mutually agreeable purchase agreement but have not yet finalized the purchase price and other terms. The work-to-date includes, but is not limited to, meetings between the City and CSXT on July 3rd, 2024, July 12, 2024, September 6th, 2024, October 24, 2024, and December 3rd, 2024. At the December 3, 2024 meeting, the City offered to buy the line for \$5,000,000 conditioned on a two-year period to close which was intended to allow for due diligence and fund raising. The City also requested options to purchase additional segments north of the subject segment should they become available in the future so that the trail could eventually be of a more useful length. CSXT did not accept the City’s offer.

In addition to the five above-mentioned meetings between CSXT and the City of St. Petersburg, other steps have been taken towards resolution. This includes coordination with the Trust for Public Land and the Rails to Trails Conservancy. On December 18th and December 19th, City staff as well as representatives from both organizations held in-person joint meetings, with perspective investors who could help contribute funds towards the purchase. The City’s next scheduled meeting with CSXT is planned for January 7, 2025.

All parties are hopeful that an extension of one year would allow negotiations to continue and that a mutually acceptable agreement could be reached.



City of St. Petersburg
Transportation & Parking Management
One Fourth St. N., 8th Floor
St. Petersburg, FL 33701

FILING FEE WAIVED



Pursuant to 49 CFR § 1002.2(e)(1) and the City of St. Petersburg's status as a local government, the City is requesting waiver of the \$650.00 filing fee for the extension of the period of time to negotiate a trail use agreement.

I certify that this letter has been served on all parties of record to this proceeding either electronically or by first class mail, postage prepaid.

Respectfully submitted,

Evan Mory, Director
City of St. Petersburg
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One 4th Street North
St. Petersburg, FL 33701



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