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Office of Chief Counsel
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Public Record

Thomas P. Rethlake
Corporation Counsel
100 S Union St
Kokomo, IN 46901
P: (765) 456-7440
F: (765) 456-7571
trethlake@cityofkokomo.org

January 28, 2026

Chief, Section of Administration,
Office of Proceedings
Surface Transportation Board
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Re: Central Railroad Company of Indianapolis – Abandonment Exemption – IN Kokomo, Howard County IN

Docket No. AB 511 (Sub-No. 8X)

Dear Chief:

This request is filed on behalf of The City of Kokomo, which is a city in Howard County, Indiana, hereinafter referred to as "Proponent."

Proponent requests issuance of a Public Use Condition as well as an Interim Trail Use Condition rather than an outright abandonment authorization on the Tipton Industrial Lead between milepost 54.28 at the south right-of-way (ROW) line of Taylor Street and Milepost No. 55.66, the north right of way line of Gano Street. This request also includes the Marion Subdivision from milepost 180.87 on Madison Street to milepost 181.26 at the intersection of Madison Street and Webster Street.

A. Request for Public Use Condition

Proponent asks the STB to find that this property is suitable for other public use, specifically trail use, and to place the following conditions on the abandonment:

1. An order prohibiting the carrier from disposing of the corridor, other than the tracks, ties and signal equipment, except for public use on reasonable terms. Justification for this condition is:

The rail corridor traverses through a heavily urbanized area that would benefit greatly from a pedestrian trail. The corridor requested for Public Use allows this trail to connect an urban population center to schools, churches and businesses. The time period sought is 180 days from the effective date of the abandonment authorization. Proponent needs this much time to review title information and begin negotiations with the carrier.

2. An order barring removal or destruction of potential trail-related structures such as bridges, trestles, ballast, culverts and tunnels. The justification for this condition is that these structures have considerable value for recreational trail purposes. The time period requested is 180 days from the

FILING FEE WAIVED

effective date of the abandonment authorization for the same reason as indicated above.

B. Request For Interim Trail Use

The railroad right-of-way in this proceeding is suitable for railbanking. In addition to the public use conditions sought above, proponent also makes the following request:

STATEMENT OF WILLINGNESS TO ASSUME FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

In order to establish interim trail use and railbanking under section 8(d) of the National Trails System Act, 16 U.S.C. §1247(d), and 49 CFR §1152.29, the City of Kokomo is willing to assume full responsibility for management of, for any legal liability arising out of the transfer or use of, and for the payment of any and all taxes that may be levied or assessed against the right-of-way owned by and operated by Central Railroad Company of Indianapolis.

The property extends on the Tipton Industrial Lead between milepost 54.28 at the south right-of-way (ROW) line of Taylor Street and Milepost No. 55.66, the north right of way line of Gano Street. This request also includes the Marion Subdivision from milepost 180.87 on Madison Street to milepost 181.26 at the intersection of Madison Street and Webster Street, a distance of 1.77 miles in Howard County, Indiana. The right-of-way is part of a line of railroad proposed for abandonment in STB Docket AB 511 (Sub-No. 8X).

A map depicting the right-of-way is attached.

The City of Kokomo acknowledges that use of the right-of-way is subject to the user's continuing to meet its responsibilities described above and subject to possible future reconstruction and reactivation of the right-of-way for rail service.

Finally, the City of Kokomo requests the STB to waive the filing fees for this request as the city is a governmental agency.

By my signature below, I certify service upon Central Railroad Company of Indianapolis, by U.S. Mail, postage pre-paid, first class, this 29th day of December 2025.

Sincerely,



Thomas P. Rethlake
Corporation Council
City of Kokomo

EXHIBIT A

1 of 3
“Premises”



EXHIBIT A
2 of 3
“Premises”



EXHIBIT A
3 of 3
“Premises”

