53327 SERVICE DATE – NOVEMBER 27, 2026

OCC

FR-4915-01-P

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

Docket No. FD 36964

City of Solon, Ohio—Acquisition Exemption—Norfolk Southern Railway Company

The City of Solon, Ohio (Solon), a noncarrier, has filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1150.31 to acquire from Norfolk Southern Railway Company (NSR) all of its residual common carrier interests, including NSR's right to reactivate rail service, on approximately 6.5 miles of rail-banked railroad line extending between milepost RH 15.0± in Cuyahoga County, Ohio, and milepost RH 21.5± at the Geauga-Portage County Line, Ohio (the Line).

In Norfolk Southern Railway—Abandonment Exemption—in Cuyahoga, Geauga, and Portage Counties, Ohio, AB 290 (Sub-No. 418X) (STB served June 25, 2025), the Board authorized abandonment of the Line, together with a 0.5-mile connecting segment. Solon states that the Line is currently subject to interim trail use under a trail use agreement between Solon and NSR under the National Trails System Act (Trails Act), 16 U.S.C. 1247(d). See Norfolk S. Ry.—Aban. Exemption—in Cuyahoga, Geauga, & Portage Cntys., Ohio, AB 290 (Sub-No. 418X) (STB served Dec. 10, 2025) (reopening the proceeding and issuing a replacement notice of interim train use to allow Solon, as proposed trail sponsor, to negotiate with NSR for interim trail use/rail banking of the Line's right-of-way).[1]

[1] On December 18, 2025, the Board was notified that a trail use/rail banking

Solon states that NSR agreed to convey to Solon, as the trail sponsor of the Line, all of NSR's residual common carrier interests in the Line, including NSR's right to terminate trail use and reactivate freight rail service. According to Solon, NSR does not wish to retain any residual rights related to the Line, and Solon is willing to acquire such residual interests. Solon states that it would obtain a contract operator to operate the Line if rail service were to be reactivated and acknowledges that any such operator would require operating authority from the Board.

Solon certifies that its projected annual revenues as a result of this transaction will not exceed those that would qualify it as a Class III rail carrier and will not exceed $5 million. Solon further certifies that the proposed transaction does not include an interchange commitment.

The transaction may be consummated on or after December 13, 2026, the effective date of the exemption (30 days after the verified notice was filed).

If the verified notice contains false or misleading information, the exemption is void ab initio. Petitions to revoke the exemption under 49 U.S.C. 10502(d) may be filed at any time. The filing of a petition to revoke will not automatically stay the effectiveness of the exemption. Petitions to stay must be filed no later than December 4, 2026 (at least seven days before the exemption becomes effective).

All pleadings, referring to Docket No. FD 36964, must be filed with the Surface Transportation Board either via e-filing on the Board's website or in writing addressed to 395 E Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20423-0001. In addition, a copy of each pleading must be served on Solon's representative, Edward Kraus, Mayor, City of Solon,

agreement was reached.

34200 Bainbridge Road, Solon, OH 44139.

According to Solon, this action is categorically excluded from environmental reporting requirements under 49 CFR 1105.6(c) and from historic preservation reporting requirements under 49 CFR 1105.8(b).

Board decisions and notices are available at www.stb.gov.

Decided: November 23, 2026.

By the Board, Anika S. Cooper, Chief Counsel, Office of Chief Counsel.