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## CITY OF ATHENS

Austin Fesmire, CPRP  
Director  
Parks and Recreation Department

January 15, 2018

244977

Secretary  
Surface Transportation Board  
395 E Street SW  
Washington, DC 20423-0001

ENTERED  
Office of Proceedings  
January 12, 2018  
Part of  
Public Record

**Re: CSX Transportation Abandonment of the Athens Branch in McMinn County, Tennessee,  
(STB Docket No. AB-55/Sub No. 694X)**

Dear Secretary:

I am writing on behalf of McMinn County, Tennessee to request another 180 day extension of the deadline for negotiations with CSX Transportation, Inc. ("CSXT"), regarding the Notice of Interim Trail Use in the above captioned proceeding with respect to the 6.4 mile portion of the line ("the Athens Branch") that extends northwest from near Englewood to Athens. (between OKW327.0 and OKW333.4 including both spurs located after OKW 332). Pursuant to the attached February 13, 2015 decision ("the Decision") and the July 13, 2017 granted extension of the Surface Transportation Board ("the Board"), an agreement for interim trail use/rail banking expired January 28, 2018 ("Negotiating Deadline").

As previously reported, McMinn County has completed the purchase of OKW332.61 to OKW328.47 and would request that the extension be relative to the remainder of the above mentioned line which is from OKW328.47 to OKW327.0. We are in the process of negotiations with CSX and need additional time to bring this to fruition.

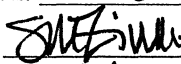
The County respectfully requests an extension to July 27, 2018 (180 calendar days for the Negotiating Deadline). In addition, the County respectfully requests a waiver of the Boards filing fees in accordance with 49 CFR 1002.2(e)(1).

Respectfully submitted,

Austin Fesmire  
City of Athens

cc: Sarah Watson, CSX  
Louis E. Gitomer, CSX  
John Gentry, McMinn County Mayor  
C. Seth Sumner, Athens City Manager

Attachment: February 13, 2015 Decision  
July 13, 2017 Decision

|                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                    |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <br><b>GRANTED</b><br>Office of<br>Proceedings | DECISION ID NO.: <u>46270</u>                                                                                      |
|                                                                                                                                    | DECIDED DATE: <u>2-7-18</u>                                                                                        |
|                                                                                                                                    | SERVICE DATE: <u>2-8-18</u>                                                                                        |
|                                                                                                                                    | APPROVED: <br>Acting Director |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>extended to 7-27-18.</u>                                                                    |                                                                                                                    |

# FILING FEE WAIVED