

815 North Jackson Street
P.O. Box 849
Athens, Tennessee 37371-0849

423-744-2704
Fax 423-744-8866
recreation@cityofathensn.com



Austin Fesmire, CPRP
Director
Parks and Recreation Department

CITY OF ATHENS 243931

July 10, 2017

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
July 10, 2017
Part of
Public Record

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

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

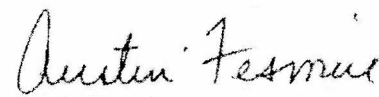
Dear Secretary:

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 February 27, 2017 granted extension of the Surface Transportation Board ("the Board"), an agreement for interim trail use/rail banking expires August 1, 2017 ("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 have received RTP funding from the state of Tennessee for this purchase and are in the process of finalizing those contracts with the state so we may proceed with the final execution of the purchase sale agreement with CSX.

The County respectfully requests an extension to January 28, 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: Matthew Coffing, CSX
Louis E. Gitomer, CSX
John Gentry, McMinn County Mayor
C. Seth Sumner, Athens City Manager

Attachment: February 13, 2015 Decision
February 27, 2017 Decision

 GRANTED Office of Proceedings	DECISION ID NO.: <u>45921</u>
	DECIDED DATE: <u>7-13-17</u>
	SERVICE DATE: <u>7-14-17</u>
	☒ <u>Extended to 1-28-18</u>

[Signature]
Acting Director

FILING FEE WAIVED