



Jeb Bush
Governor

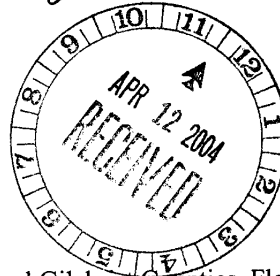
Department of Environmental Protection

Marjory Stoneman Douglas Building
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000

Colleen M. Castille
Secretary

April 5, 2004

Secretary
United States Surface Transportation Board (STB)
1925 K Street NW, Room 700
Washington, DC 20423-0001



Re: Florida West Coast Railroad Abandonment in Alachua and Gilchrist Counties, Florida, STB
Docket Number AB-347 (Sub-No. 3X)

Dear Secretary:

Please find enclosed our request for railbanking for the above referenced project. As a government agency of the State of Florida, we are requesting a waiver of the \$150 filing fee.

If you have questions regarding the attached or need additional information please contact Robin Turner of our office in Tallahassee at 850-245-2052.

Sincerely,

James M. Wood, Assistant Director
Office of Greenways and Trails

Enclosures (letter and map)

FILED
APR 12 2004
SURFACE
TRANSPORTATION BOARD

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Dear Secretary:

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

This request is filed on behalf of the Office of Greenways and Trails, which is an office of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, 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 between milepost 734.0 in Trenton, FL and milepost 721.0 in Newberry, FL.

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 that the rail corridor in question lies within an identified trail opportunity corridor as approved by the Florida Greenways and Trails Council, and the trail would also represent an extension of the existing Nature Coast State Trail, formerly a rail line, which is currently managed by the Office of Greenways and Trails. The time period sought is 180 days from the effective date of the abandonment authorization. Proponent needs this much time for the project to be submitted to the appropriate acquisition program, which is necessary in order to begin negotiations with the carrier.
2. An order barring removal or destruction of potential trail-related structures such as bridges, trestles, 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 effective date of the abandonment authorization for the same reason as indicated above.

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FLORIDA WEST COAST RAILROAD

