

LEE COUNTY COMMISSION

Chairman

Bill English, *Probate Judge*
Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 666
Opelika, AL 36803-0666
(334) 745-9767



Lee County, Alabama Est. 1866

Members

Sam Pierce, District 1
Johnny Lawrence, District 2
Harry Ennis, District 3
Annell M. Smith, District 4
John Andrew Harris, District 5

June 23, 2004

211419
FILING FEE WAIVER
JUN 24 2004
RECEIVED

Mr. Vernon A. Williams, Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, NW, Room 700
Washington, DC 20423

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings

JUN 24 2004

Part of
Public Record

RE: INTERIM TRAIL USE REQUEST IN STB DOCKET
NO. AB-601 (Sub. No. 1)X, PINE BELT SOUTHERN
RAILROAD COMPANY, INC.—ABANDONMENT
EXEMPTION—IN LEE AND CHAMBERS COUNTIES, AL

Dear Secretary Williams:

This Interim Trail Use Request is filed on behalf of the Lee County, Alabama, which is a Commission form of government interested in the development of a recreational trail, and is hereinafter referred to as "proponent."

Proponent requests an issuance of an Interim Trail Use Condition rather than an outright abandonment authorization between milepost T-325.42 and milepost T-326.26 at Lee County, Alabama.

Proponent asks the Surface Transportation Board (STB) to find that the railroad right-of-way in this processing is suitable for Interim Trail Use and railbanking. In addition, the 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. Section 1247(d), and 49 C.F.R. Part 1152.29, the Lee County, Alabama is willing to assume full responsibility for

Secretary Vernon A. Williams
June 23, 2004
Page 2

management of, for any legal liability arising out of the transfer or use of (unless the user is immune from liability, in which case it need only indemnify the railroad against any liability), 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 Pine Belt Southern Railroad Company, Inc.

The property extends from railroad milepost T-325.42 and milepost T-326.26 at Lee County, a distance of 0.84 miles in Lee County, Alabama. The right-of-way is proposed for abandonment in STB Docket No. AB-61 (Sub. No. 1)X.

A map depicting the right-of-way is attached. Lee County acknowledges that use of the right-of-way is subject to the users continuing to meet its responsibilities described above and subject to possible future reconstruction and reactivation of the right-of-way for rail service.

By my signature below, I certify service upon Pine Belt Southern Railroad Company, Inc., 595 Minkslide Road, Shelbyville, TN 37162 by Federal Express Priority Overnight, pre-paid, this _____ day of June, 2004.

Respectfully submitted,



Bill English
Chairman
Lee County Commission

Johnny Ray Rails to Trails Lee & Chambers Counties

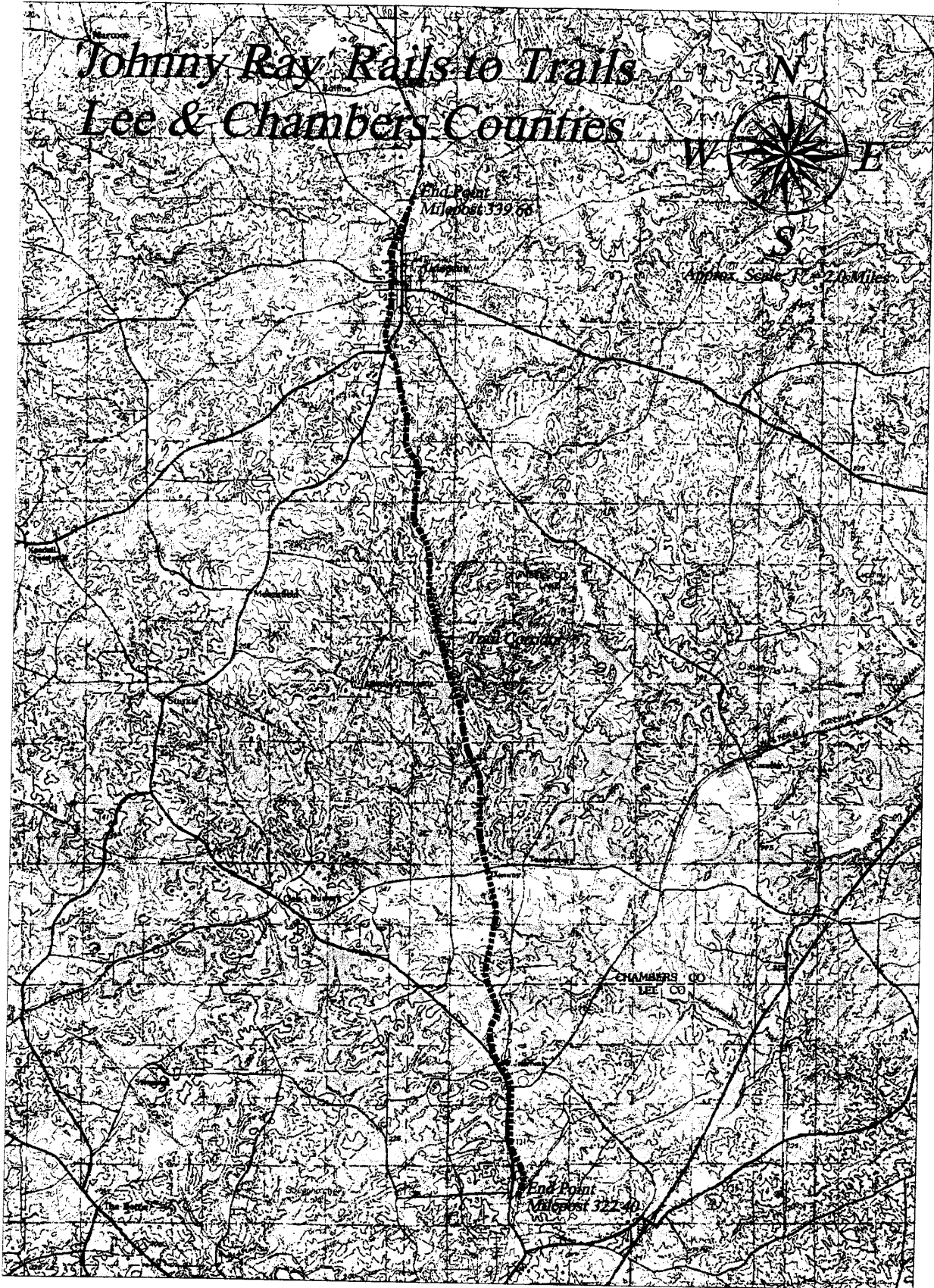


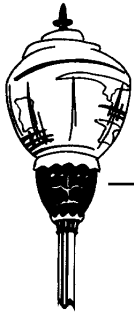
End Point
Milepost 339.68

Approx. Scale 1" = 2.5 Miles

CHAMBERS CO.
LEE CO.

End Point
Milepost 322.40





The City Of

Opelika

Office of the Mayor

Rich in heritage,
with a vision
for the future

Telephone 334-705-5150
Fax 334-705-5153

June 23, 2004

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Mr. Vernon A. Williams, Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, NW, Room 700
Washington, DC 20423

RE: INTERIM TRAIL USE REQUEST IN STB DOCKET
NO. AB-601 (Sub. No. 1)X, PINE BELT SOUTHERN
RAILROAD COMPANY, INC.—ABANDONMENT
EXEMPTION—IN LEE AND CHAMBERS COUNTIES, AL

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Dear Secretary Williams:

This Interim Trail Use Request is filed on behalf of the City of Opelika, Alabama, which is a municipal government interested in the development of a recreational trail, and is hereinafter referred to as "proponent."

Proponent requests an issuance of an Interim Trail Use Condition rather than an outright abandonment authorization between milepost T-322.40 at Roanoke Junction and milepost T-325.42 at Opelika, Alabama.

Proponent asks the Surface Transportation Board (STB) to find that the railroad right-of-way in this processing is suitable for Interim Trail Use and railbanking. In addition, the 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. Section 1247(d), and 49 C.F.R. Part 1152.29, the City of Opelika is willing to assume full responsibility for

Secretary Vernon A. Williams
June 23, 2004
Page 2

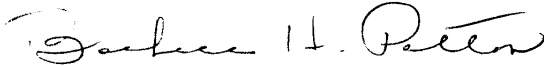
management of, for any legal liability arising out of the transfer or use of (unless the user is immune from liability, in which case it need only indemnify the railroad against any liability), and for the payment of any and all taxes that may be levied or assessed against the right-of-way owned by and operated by Pine Belt Southern Railroad Company, Inc.

The property extends from railroad milepost T-322.40 at Roanoke Junction and milepost T-325.42 at Opelika, a distance of 3.02 miles in Lee County, Alabama. The right-of-way is proposed for abandonment in STB Docket No. AB-61 (Sub. No. 1)X.

A map depicting the right-of-way is attached. The City of Opelika acknowledges that use of the right-of-way is subject to the users continuing to meet its responsibilities described above and subject to possible future reconstruction and reactivation of the right-of-way for rail service.

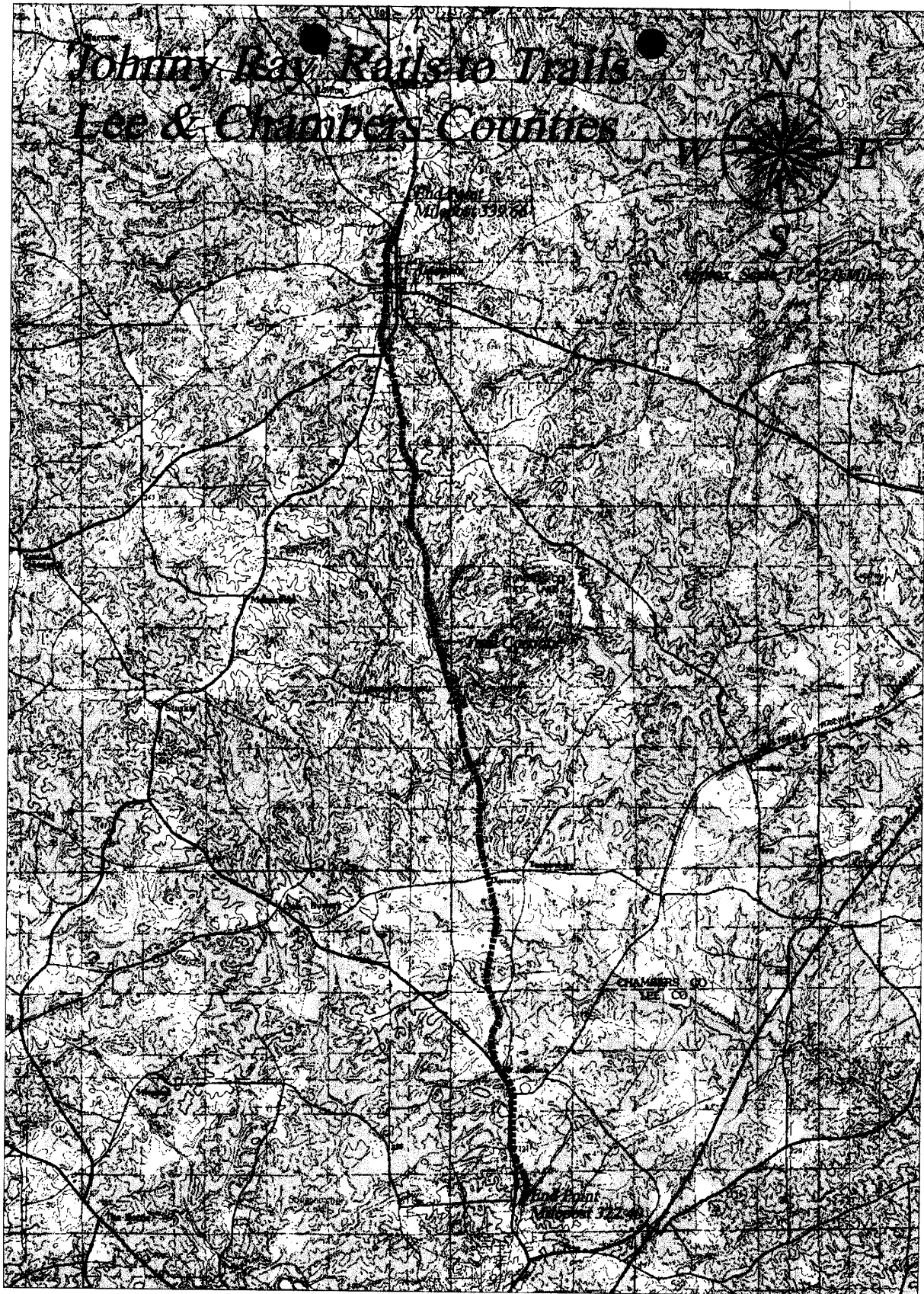
By my signature below, I certify service upon Pine Belt Southern Railroad Company, Inc., 595 Minkslide Road, Shelbyville, TN 37162 by Federal Express Priority Overnight, pre-paid, this _____ day of June, 2004.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Barbara H. Patton".

Barbara H. Patton
Mayor

Johnny Ray Ralls to Trails Lee & Chambers Counties



City of La Fayette

Mayor
Robert C. Finley

City Clerk
Peter T. Gardner

Box 87
(334) 864-9812

La Fayette, Alabama 36862

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City Council

Cornelius Reese, Jr.

District A

David Ennis

District B

Charlene Holloway

District C

M. Allen Tucker, Jr.

District D

Jammie B. Williams

District E

June 22, 2004

Mr. Vernon A. Williams, Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street NW, Room 700
Washington, D. C. 20423

Re: Interim Trail Use Request in STB Docket No. AB-601
(Sub. No. 1)X, Pine Belt Southern Railroad Company
Inc.- Abandonment Exemption-in Lee and Chambers
Counties, Alabama

Dear Secretary Williams:

This Interim Trail Use Request is filed on behalf of the City of LaFayette, Alabama. The City is interested in the development of the railroad right of way as a recreational trail. In this endeavor, the City of LaFayette is joined by the City of Opelika, and Lee and Chambers counties.

The four local governments are proponents of this recreational development. LaFayette, along with Opelika and Lee and Chambers counties, requests an issuance of an Interim Trail Use Condition rather than an outright abandonment authorization between milepost T-322.40 at Roanoke Junction and milepost T-339.66 at LaFayette, Alabama.

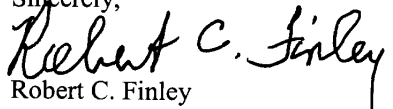
LaFayette, along with the other three local governments, ask the Surface Transportation Board to find that the railroad right-of-way referenced here is suitable for Interim Trail Use and railbanking.

Additionally, the City of LaFayette will work with the City of Opelika, which is accepting full responsibility for the management of the rail right of way, including all legal liability for the entire 17.3 miles. Eventually, it is expected that a multi-jurisdictional authority will be set up to develop and maintain the trail. Until that is done, the City of Opelika will be responsible.

STAMP FEE WAIVED

A map, showing the complete right-of-way is attached. Additionally, letters of support for this request are included from Chambers County, Lee County and Opelika.

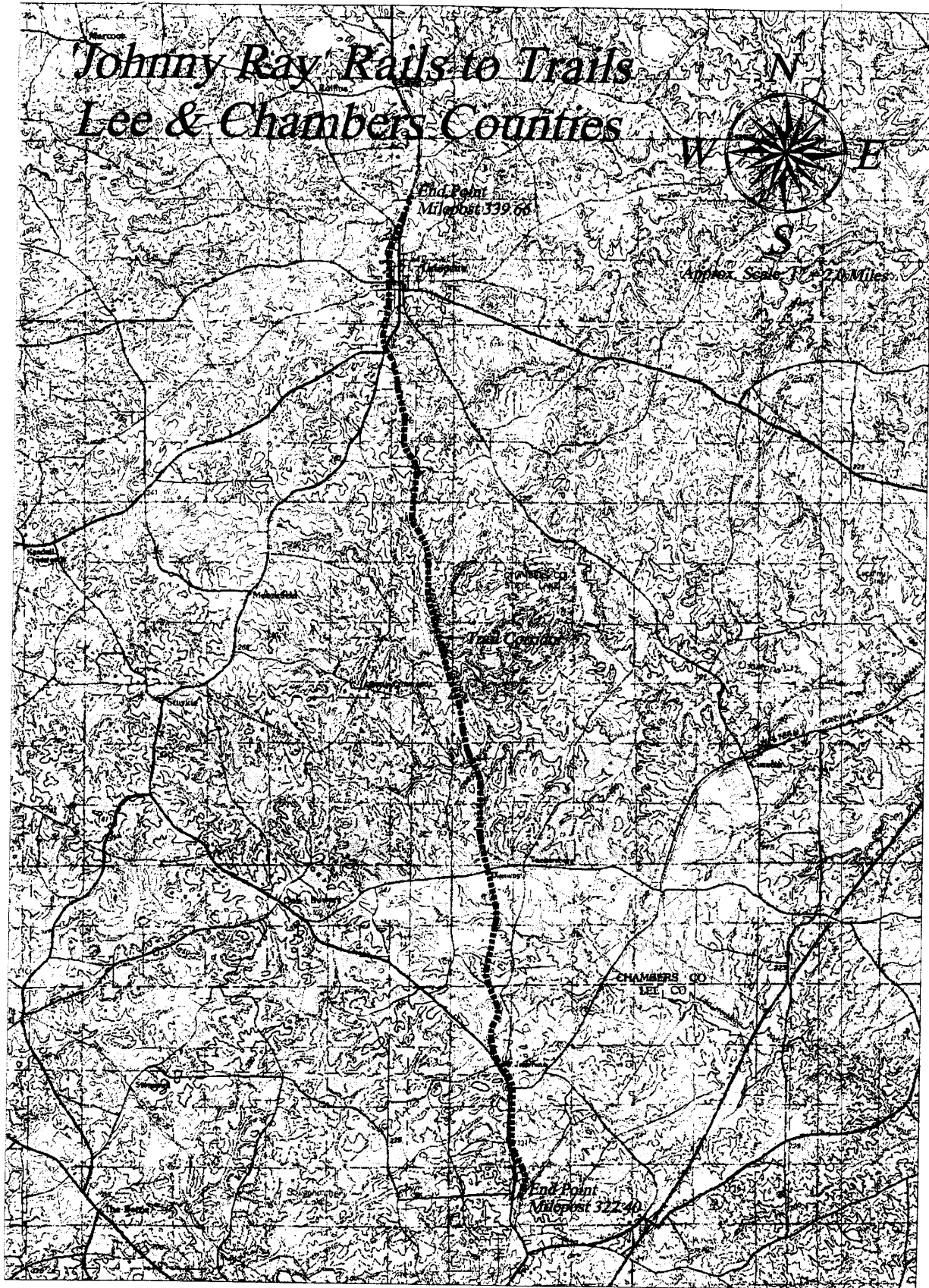
Sincerely,


Robert C. Finley
Mayor, City of Lafayette, Alabama

attachments: as stated

Addendum: The City of Lafayette's property extends from railroad milepost T- 337.76 to milepost T- 339.66, a distance of 1.90 miles.

Johnny Ray Rails to Trails Lee & Chambers Counties



Chambers County Commission



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211419

Charles Hardage, Jr., District 4
Chairman
Danny Kendrick, District 3
Vice Chairman

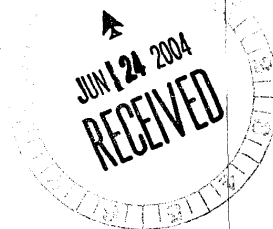
Ross Dunn, District 1
Wayne N. White, District 2
David Eastridge, District 5
Debbie Wood, District 6

Patrick Simms, Administrator

June 23, 2004

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Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, NW, Room 700
Washington, DC 20423

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NO. AB-601 (Sub. No. 1)X, PINE BELT SOUTHERN
RAILROAD COMPANY, INC.—ABANDONMENT
EXEMPTION—IN LEE AND CHAMBERS COUNTIES, AL

Dear Secretary Williams:

This Interim Trail Use Request is filed on behalf of the Chambers County, Alabama, which is a Commission form of government interested in the development of a recreational trail, and is hereinafter referred to as "proponent."

Proponent requests an issuance of an Interim Trail Use Condition rather than an outright abandonment authorization between milepost T-326.26 and milepost T-337.76 at Chambers County, Alabama.

Proponent asks the Surface Transportation Board (STB) to find that the railroad right-of-way in this processing is suitable for Interim Trail Use and railbanking. In addition, the 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. Section 1247(d), and 49 C.F.R. Part 1152.29, the Chambers County, Alabama is willing to assume full responsibility for management of, for any legal liability arising out of the transfer or use of (unless the user is immune from liability, in which case it need only indemnify the railroad

No. 2 South LaFayette Street ■ LaFayette, Alabama 36862

Telephone: (334) 864-4341 – (706) 586-8225 ■ Fax: (334) 864-4306
www.chamberscounty.com

Chambers County Commission



Charles Hardage, Jr., District 4
Chairman
Danny Kendrick, District 3
Vice Chairman

Patrick Simms, Administrator

Ross Dunn, District 1
Wayne N. White, District 2
David Eastridge, District 5
Debbie Wood, District 6

against any liability), 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 Pine Belt Southern Railroad Company, Inc.

The property extends from railroad milepost T-326.26 and milepost T-337.76 at Chambers County, a distance of 11.50 miles in Chambers County, Alabama. The right-of-way is proposed for abandonment in STB Docket No. AB-61 (Sub. No. 1)X.

A map depicting the right-of-way is attached. Chambers County acknowledges that use of the right-of-way is subject to the users continuing to meet its responsibilities described above and subject to possible future reconstruction and reactivation of the right-of-way for rail service.

By my signature below, I certify service upon Pine Belt Southern Railroad Company, Inc., 595 Minkslide Road, Shelbyville, TN 37162 by Federal Express Priority Overnight, pre-paid, this 23rd day of June, 2004.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charles E. Hardage Jr.".

Charles E. Hardage, Jr.
Chairman
Chambers County Commission

Johnny Ray Rails to Trails Lee & Chambers Counties

