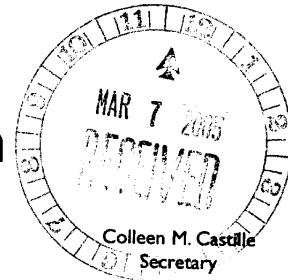




Jeb Bush
Governor

Department of Environmental Protection

213489
Marjory Stoneman Douglas Building
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000



February 14, 2005

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings

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

MAR 7 2005

Part of
Public Record

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

Statement of Willingness

Dear Secretary Williams:

This request is filed on behalf of the Office of Greenways and Trails, State of Florida
Department of Environmental Protection.

In order to establish interim trail use and railbanking under section 8(d) of the National Trails
System Act, 16 U.S.C. §1247(d), and 49 CFR §1152.29, the Office of Greenways and Trails is
willing to assume full responsibility for management of the right-of-way as a recreational trail.

The property, to be known as the Nature Coast Trail Extension, extends from railroad milepost
734.0 near Trenton, FL to railroad milepost 721.0 near Newberry, FL, a distance 13 of miles in
Alachua and Gilchrist counties. The right-of-way is part of a line of railroad proposed for
abandonment in STB Docket No. AB-347 (Sub-No. 3X). A map depicting the right-of-way is
attached.

As the owner of real property, the State of Florida's liability for tort claims is governed by
Section 768.28, Florida Statutes, and nothing herein shall be construed as an indemnity or a
waiver of sovereign immunity as provided in Section 768.28, Florida Statutes, as amended from
time to time, or any other law providing limitations on claims.

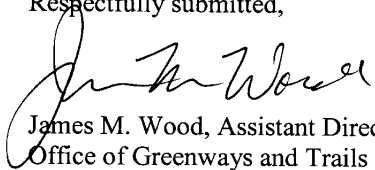
To address the concerns about the payment of any taxes levied or assessed against the right-of-
way, please be advised that pursuant to Section 196.199, Florida Statutes, property owned by the
State of Florida that is used for governmental purposes is exempt from ad valorem taxation.

The Office of Greenways and Trails acknowledges that use of the right-of-way is subject to the
user's continuing to meet its responsibilities and subject to possible future reconstruction and
reactivation of the right-of-way for rail service.

"More Protection, Less Process"

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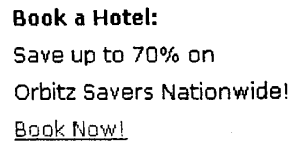
Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James M. Wood", is written over the printed name.

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

cc:

David Anderson, Attorney for Florida West Coast Railroad
Rita McAndrews-Giblin, Attorney for CSX
CSX Real Property

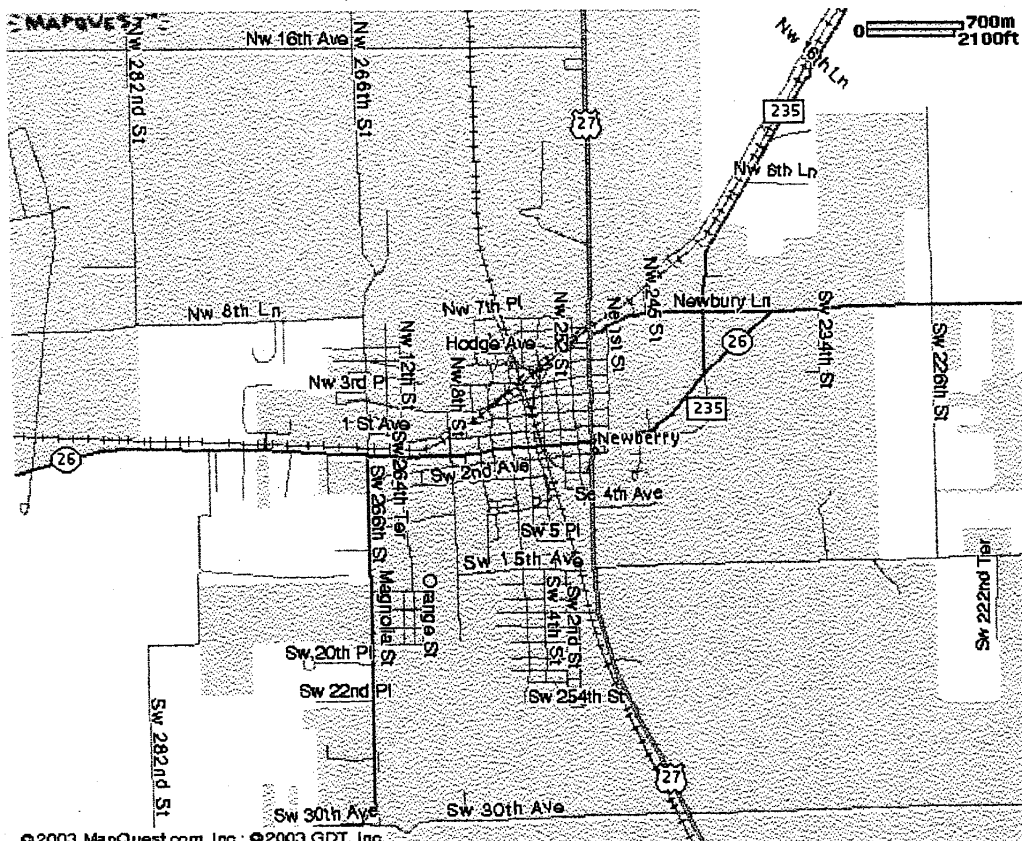


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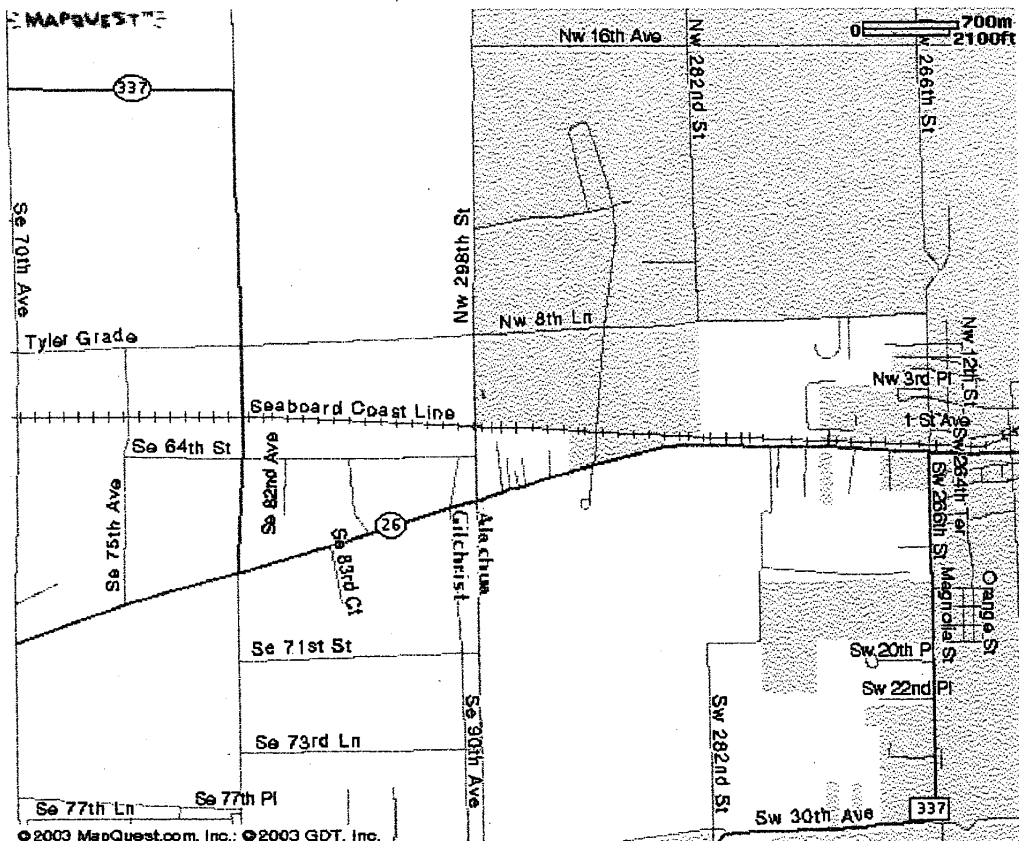


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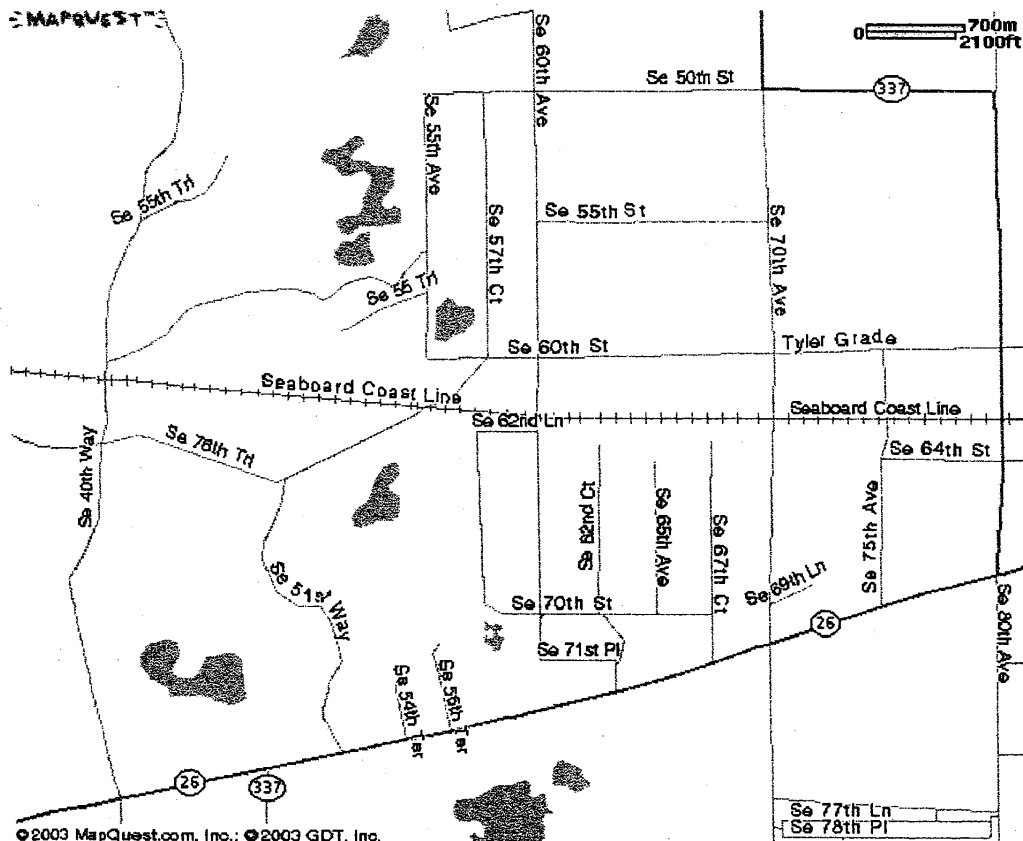
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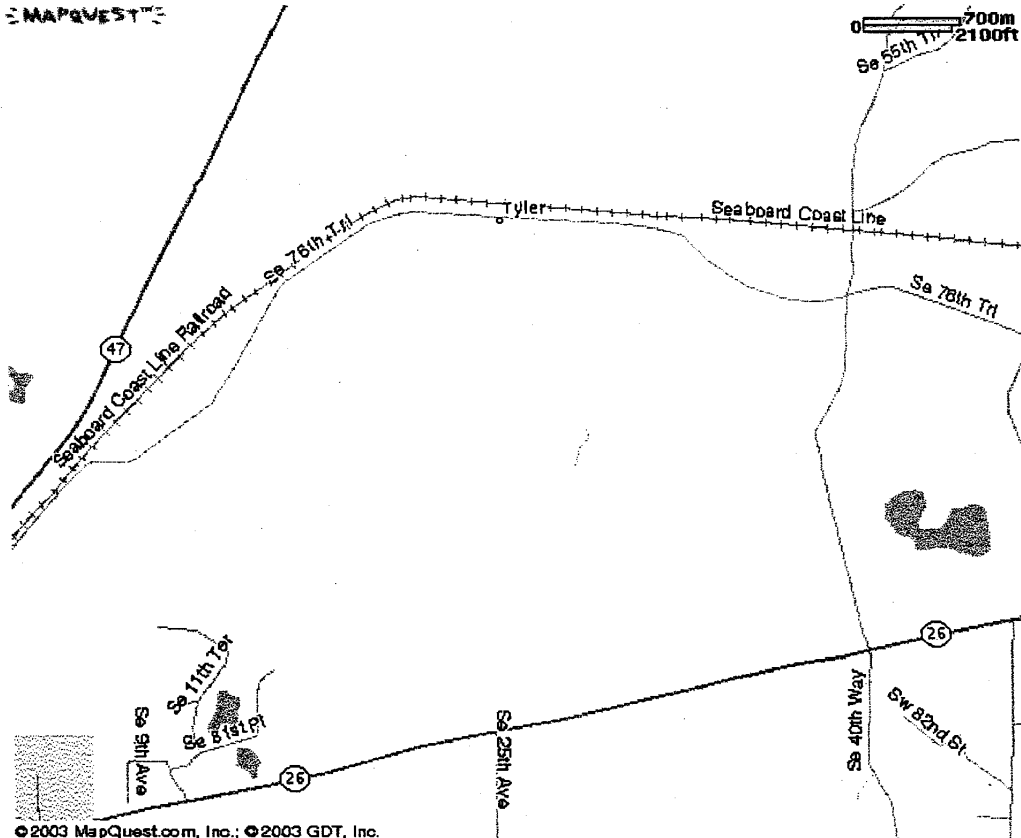
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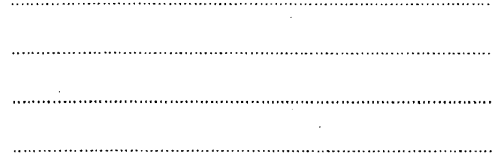
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