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CITY OF ATHENS

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
February 16, 2017
Part of
Public Record

Austin Fesmire, CPRP
Director
Parks and Recreation Department

February 16, 2017

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 July 27, 2016 granted extension of the Surface Transportation Board ("the Board"), an agreement for interim trail use/rail banking expired February 2, 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 are in the process of requesting further funding through the federal RTP program and private donors so that we might complete this purchase however we need additional time to pursue this funding opportunity.

The County respectfully requests an extension to August 1, 2017 (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
July 27, 2016 Decision

GRANTED Office of Proceedings	DECISION ID NO.: <u>45695</u>
	DECIDED DATE: <u>2/27/17</u>
	SERVICE DATE: <u>2/28/2017</u>
	APPROVED: <u>Rachel O. Campbell</u> Director
	☒ <u>extended to 8/1/17</u>

FILING FEE WAIVED