



Insurance Exchange Building Suite 444
505 Fifth Ave.
Des Moines, Iowa 50309

Phone: 515-288-1846
Fax: 515-288-0137
e-mail: aboutlton@inhf.org
www.inhf.org

April 27, 2026

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ENTERED
Office of Chief Counsel
April 27, 2026
Part of
Public Record

Chief of Case Administration, Office of Chief Counsel
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

RE: AB-290 (Sub-No. 424X), Norfolk Southern Railway Company- Abandonment Exemption –
In Polk County, Iowa

Dear Chief:

This request is filed on behalf of the Polk County Conservation Board, the Cities of Des Moines, West Des Moines, Windsor Heights, Urbandale, Clive, and Grimes (public agencies) and the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation (non-profit corporation), which are parties interested in transportation, conservation and recreation, and are 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 340.8 and milepost 353.0** in Polk County.

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 the rail corridor in question would provide an important connection between neighborhoods within and among these communities and the broader Central Iowa Trail System. The Central Iowa Trail System is a regional network of more than 800 miles of trails that links the Des Moines metropolitan area with destinations that support economic development and enhance residents’ quality of life. The time period sought is 180 days from the effective date of the abandonment

FILING FEE WAIVED

quality of life. The time period sought is 180 days from the effective date of the abandonment authorization. Proponent needs this much time to review title information, survey the property boundaries, and begin negotiations with the railroad.

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.

B. Request For Interim Trail Use

The railroad right-of-way in this proceeding is suitable for railbanking. In addition to the public use conditions sought above, 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. §1247(d), and 49 CFR §1152.29, 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 against any potential 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 . The property, known as the Grimes Line, extends from railroad milepost 340.8 near Des Moines to railroad milepost 353.0 near Grimes, a distance of 12.2 miles in Polk County, IA. The right-of-way is part of a line of railroad proposed for abandonment in STB Docket No. AB-290 (Sub-No. 424X).

A map depicting the right-of-way is attached.

On behalf of the Polk County Conservation Board, the Cities of Des Moines, West Des Moines, Windsor Heights, Urbandale, Clive, and Grimes, and the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, I acknowledge that use of the right-of-way is subject to the user's continuing to meet its responsibilities described above and subject to possible future reconstruction and reactivation of the right-of-way for rail service.

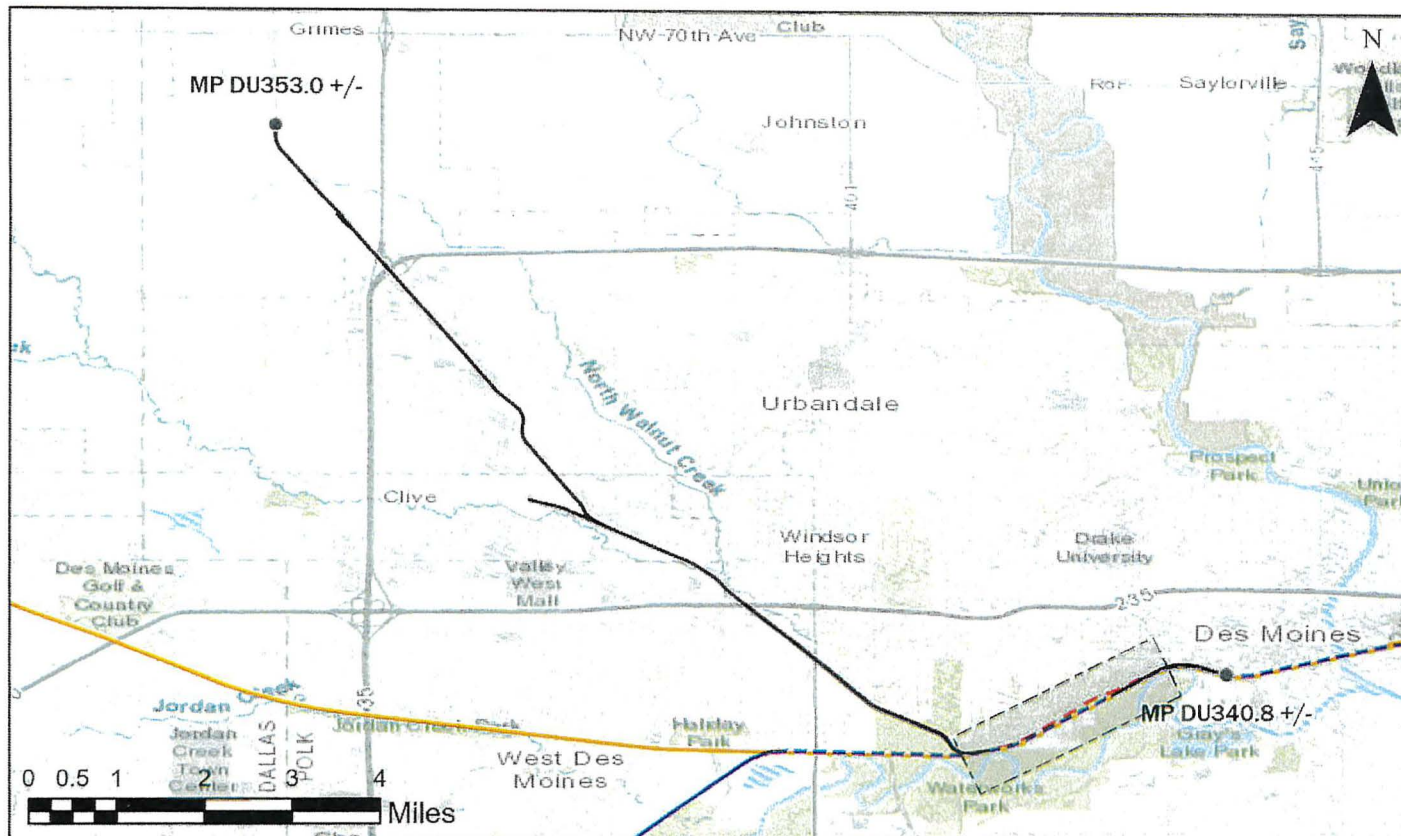
By my signature below, I certify service upon Norfolk Southern Railway via William A. Mullins, Mullins Law Group PLLC, 2001 L Street NW, Suite 720, Washington DC, by U.S. Mail, postage pre-paid, first class, this day of April 27, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,



Joe McGovern
President, Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation

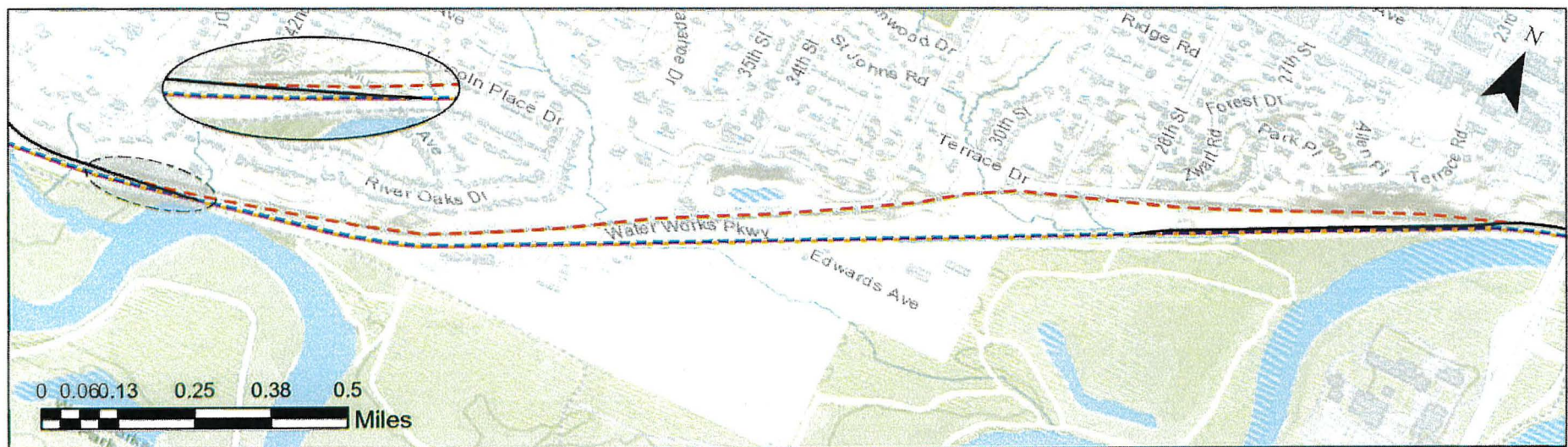
cc: Polk County Conservation Board, the Cities of Des Moines, West Des Moines, Windsor Heights, Urbandale, Clive, Grimes, and Des Moines Metropolitan Planning Agency



Grimes Line
Abandonment/Discontinuance
Exhibit
AB-290 (sub. no. 424X)
AB-414 (sub no. 9X)

- Union Pacific
- - - Iowa Interstate Leased - NS Owned (OOS)**
- Iowa Interstate
- - - Union Pacific Trackage Rights
- Iowa Interstate Leased - NS Owned**

** denotes track to be
 abandoned/discontinued





POLK COUNTY
CONSERVATION

February 25, 2026

Chief of Case Administration, Office of Chief Counsel
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

RE: AB-290 (Sub-No. 424X), Norfolk Southern Railway Company Abandonment – In Polk County, Iowa

To whom it may concern:

The Polk County Conservation Board, for Polk County, Iowa, has requested that the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation (INHF), with support from the Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), represents our interests in the above matter.

We authorize INHF to file for Public Use Condition as well as a certificate of Notice of Interim Trail Use on our behalf.

Polk County Conservation requests that the filing fee be waived as INHF is acting on behalf of a public agency.

Sincerely,

Richard Leopold, Director
Polk County Conservation

Main: 515-323-5300

12130 NW 128th St.
Granger, IA 50109

LeadingYouOutdoors.org

March 5, 2026

Chief of Case Administration, Office of Chief Counsel
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

RE: AB-290 (Sub-No. 424X), Norfolk Southern Railway Company Abandonment – In Polk County, Iowa

To whom it may concern:

The City of Des Moines, Iowa, has requested that the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation (INHF), with support from the Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), represents our interests in the above matter.

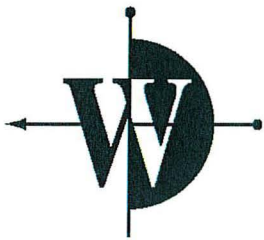
We authorize INHF to file for Public Use Condition as well as a certificate of Notice of Interim Trail Use on our behalf.

The City of Des Moines requests that the filing fee be waived as INHF is acting on behalf of a public agency.

Sincerely,



Connie Boesen, Mayor
City of Des Moines



CITY OF

West Des Moines®

www.wdm.iowa.gov

Mayor/City Council

4200 Mills Civic Parkway
P.O. Box 65320
West Des Moines, IA 50265-0320

Phone 515-222-3610
FAX 515-222-3638

'AAA' Credit Rating Moody's

'AAA' Credit Rating
Standard & Poor's

March 2, 2026

Chief of Case Administration, Office of Chief Counsel
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

RE: AB-290 (Sub-No. 424X), Norfolk Southern Railway Company Abandonment
– In Polk County, Iowa

To Whom It May Concern:

The Mayor and City Council, for the City of West Des Moines, Iowa, has requested that the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation (INHF), with support from the Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), represents our interests in the above matter.

We authorize INHF to file for Public Use Condition as well as a certificate of Notice of Interim Trail Use on our behalf.

The City of West Des Moines requests that the filing fee be waived as INHF is acting on behalf of a public agency.

Thank you,

Russ Trimble
Mayor, City of West Des Moines



Chief of Case Administration, Office of Chief Counsel
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

RE: AB-290 (Sub-No. 424X), Norfolk Southern Railway Company Abandonment – In Polk County,
Iowa

To whom it may concern:

The City Council, for Windsor Heights Iowa, has requested that the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation (INHF), with support from the Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), represents our interests in the above matter.

We authorize INHF to file for Public Use Condition as well as a certificate of Notice of Interim Trail Use on our behalf.

Windsor Heights requests that the filing fee be waived as INHF is acting on behalf of a public agency.

Sincerely,


Mike Jones, Mayor
City Of Windsor Heights

CITY OF URBANDALE

3600 86th Street • Urbandale, IA 50322 • 515.278.3900 • Urbandale.org



March 3, 2026

Chief of Case Administration, Office of Chief Counsel
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

RE: AB-290 (Sub-No. 424X), Norfolk Southern Railway Company Abandonment – In Polk County, Iowa

To whom it may concern:

The City Council of the City of Urbandale, Iowa, has requested that the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation (INHF), with support from the Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), represents our interests in the above matter.

We authorize INHF to file for Public Use Condition as well as a certificate of Notice of Interim Trail Use on our behalf.

The City of Urbandale requests that the filing fee be waived as INHF is acting on behalf of a public agency.

Sincerely,

Robert Andeweg, Mayor
City of Urbandale



March 12, 2026

Chief of Case Administration, Office of Chief Counsel
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

RE: AB-290 (Sub-No. 424X), Norfolk Southern Railway Company Abandonment – In Polk County, Iowa

To whom it may concern:

The City Council for City of Clive, Iowa, has requested that the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation (INHF), with support from the Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), represents our interests in the above matter.

We authorize INHF to file for Public Use Condition as well as a certificate of Notice of Interim Trail Use on our behalf.

City of Clive requests that the filing fee be waived as INHF is acting on behalf of a public agency.

Sincerely,

John Edwards, Mayor
City of Clive



March 10, 2026

Chief of Case Administration, Office of Chief Counsel
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

RE: AB-290 (Sub-No. 424X), Norfolk Southern Railway Company Abandonment – In Polk County, Iowa

To whom it may concern:

The City Council, for the City of Grimes, Iowa, has requested that the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation (INHF), with support from the Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), represents our interests in the above matter.

We authorize INHF to file for Public Use Condition as well as a certificate of Notice of Interim Trail Use on our behalf.

The City of Grimes requests that the filing fee be waived as INHF is acting on behalf of a public agency.

Sincerely,

David Gisch, Mayor
City of Grimes, Iowa



AGENDA ITEM: Letter to the Surface Transportation Board Regarding the Norfolk Southern Railway Company Abandonment (AB-290, SUB-NO. 424X)

BACKGROUND:

Norfolk Southern Railway has filed a request with the Surface Transportation Board (STB) to abandon certain rail lines located in Polk County.

The proposed abandonment presents a potential opportunity to preserve the rail corridor for future public use, including transportation and recreational trail purposes.

BUDGETARY CONSIDERATIONS:

STRATEGIC PLANNING:

Prioritized: ____YES __X__NO

*High-Performing Organization/Exception Professional Services ____

*Great Place to Live/Expanded Quality of Life Amenities ____

*Dynamic Town/Strong Sense of Community ____

*More Beautiful/Vibrant Community ____

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTIONS:

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

RESPONSIBLE STAFF/CONTACT INFORMATION:

Jake Anderson, City Administrator, 515-986-3036, janderson@grimesiowa.gov

Prepared by: Rachel Greving

Return to: Jake Anderson; Rachel Greving

RESOLUTION 03-0626 APPROVING A LETTER TO THE SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD REGARDING THE NORFOLK SOUTHERN RAILWAY COMPANY ABANDONMENT (AB-290, SUB-NO. 424X)

Grimes Resolution No. 03-0626

WHEREAS, Norfolk Southern Railway Company has filed for abandonment of certain rail lines located in Polk County, Iowa, identified as Case No. AB-290 (Sub-No. 424X); and

WHEREAS, the City of Grimes recognizes the potential public benefit of preserving said rail corridor for future transportation and recreational purposes, specifically as a public trail; and

WHEREAS, the City of Grimes desires to cooperate with the **Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation (INHF)** and the **Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)** to represent the City's interests in these proceedings before the Surface Transportation Board (STB); and

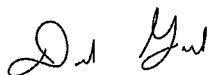
WHEREAS, it is necessary to formally authorize the INHF to file for a **Public Use Condition** and a **Notice of Interim Trail Use (NITU)** to protect the region's right to negotiate for the acquisition of the corridor; and

WHEREAS, a letter has been drafted to the STB Chief of Case Administration outlining these authorizations and requesting a waiver of filing fees.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Grimes, Iowa:

1. **Approval:** The City Council hereby approves the letter dated March 10, 2026, addressed to the Surface Transportation Board regarding the Norfolk Southern Railway Company abandonment.
2. **Authorization:** The mayor is hereby authorized and directed to sign said letter on behalf of the City.
3. **Representation:** The City formally requests and authorizes the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation (INHF) to act as its representative in filing the necessary documentation for Public Use and Interim Trail Use.
4. **Implementation:** City staff are directed to take all necessary steps to effectuate the purpose and intent of this resolution.

PASSED and APPROVED on March 10, 2026.



David Gisch, Mayor

Attested:

Rachel Greving

Rachel Greving, City Clerk