



Jeb Bush
Governor

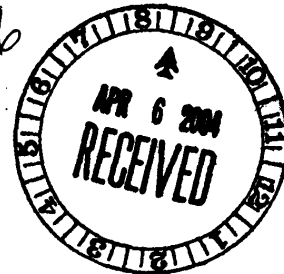
Department of Environmental Protection

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

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings

APR - 6 2004

Part of
Public Record

Enclosures (letter and map)

FILING FEE WAIVED

FILED

APR - 6 2004

SURFACE
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Governor

Department of Environmental Protection

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

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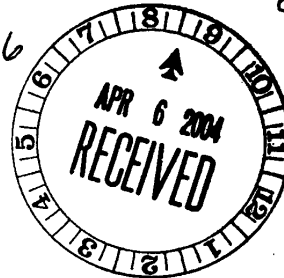
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United States Surface Transportation Board (STB)
1925 K Street NW, Room 700
Washington, DC 20423-0001



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

FILING FEE PAID

Dear Secretary:

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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April 5, 2004

Page 2 of 2

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, the Office of Greenways & Trails is willing to assume full responsibility for management of the right-of-way as a recreational trail.

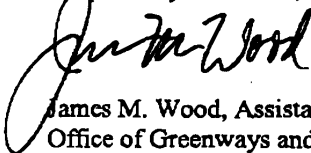
The property, to be known as the Nature Coast Trail Extension, extends from railroad milepost 734.0 near Trenton, FL to railroad milepost 721.0 near Newberry, FL, a distance of 13 miles in Alachua and Gilchrist counties. The right-of-way is part of a line of railroad proposed for abandonment in STB Docket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

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

The Office of Greenways & Trails acknowledges 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 Florida West Coast Railroad Company, Inc. and CSX Transportation, Inc. by U.S. Mail, postage pre-paid, first class, this fifth day of April, 2004.

Respectfully submitted,

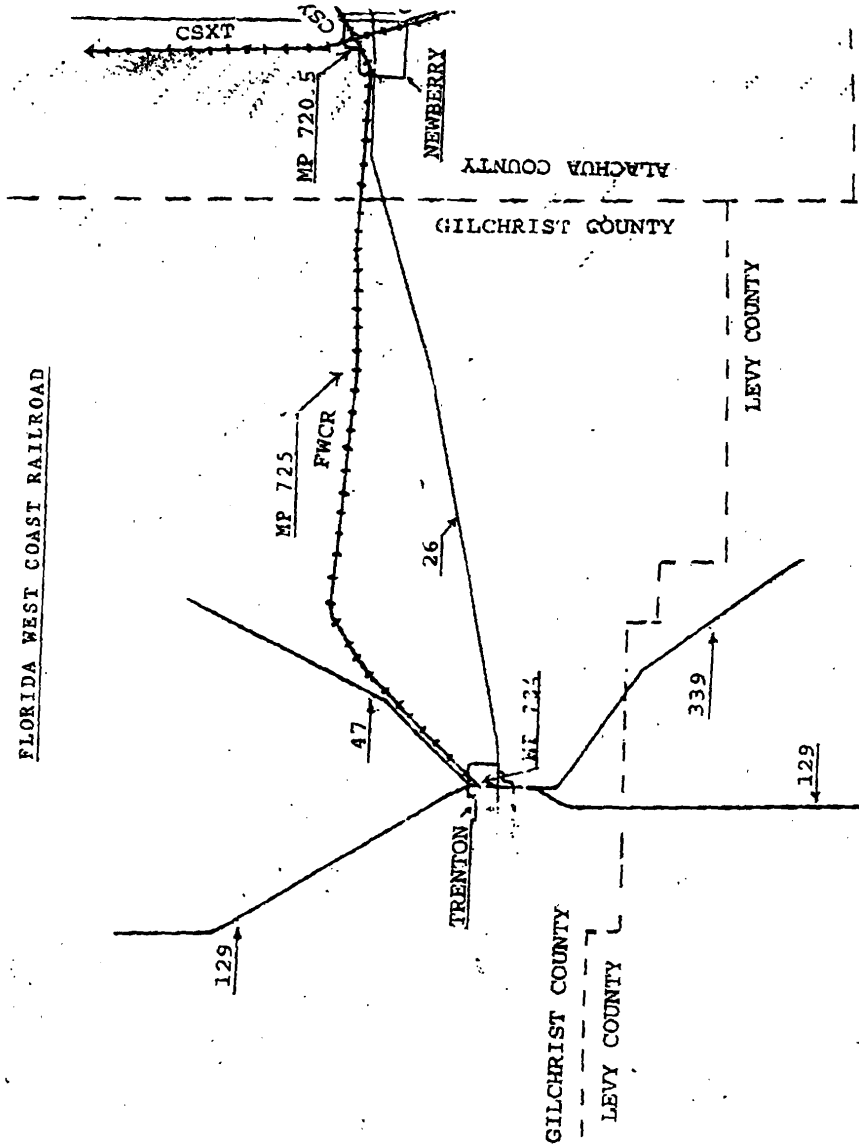


James M. Wood, Assistant Director
Office of Greenways and Trails

Cc:

David Anderson, Attorney for Florida West Coast Railroad
John Gold, Attorney for CSX
CSX Real Property

attachments (map)





Jeb Bush
Governor

Colleen Castille
Secretary

Department of Environmental Protection
Office of Greenways and Trails
Douglas Building, Room 853
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, MS 795
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000
Jena B. Brooks, Director
Fax No.(850)245-2082 Phone: No.(850)245-2052

===== :=====

Total number of pages, including this page: 5 Date: 4/5/04

To: Vernon Williams

Fax#: 202.565.9002

Phone #: _____

From: Robin Turner

Phone: (850)245-2909

Comments:

"Working to establish a statewide system of greenways and trails for
recreation and conservation purposes."