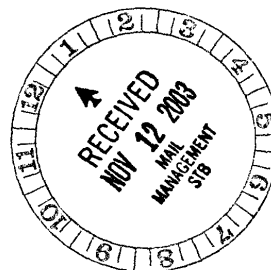




BOSTON
TRANSPORTATION
DEPARTMENT

ONE CITY HALL PLAZA/ROOM 721
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02201
(617) 635-4680/FAX (617) 635-4295

October 28, 2003



Vernon A. Williams, Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
Mercury Building
1925 K. Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20423

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Re: STB Docket No. AB-565 (Sub-No. 7X) *209385*
New York Central Lines, LLC-Abandonment
STB Docket No. AB-55 (Sub-No. 605X)
CSX Transportation, Inc.-Discontinuance of Service
Exemption in Suffolk County, Massachusetts

Dear Secretary Williams:

Please be advised, the City of Boston supports the request made by CSX Transportation Inc. dated October 3, 2003 for an extension of the negotiating period for the referenced action by six months through April 28, 2004.

As you know, City of Boston officials are working with the City of Chelsea and various agencies within the Commonwealth to insure that the CSX right-of-way is preserved. Our purpose is to create two important transportation projects that will result in a vastly improved transportation network for the greater Boston metropolitan region as well as improve air quality. The Boston portion would include a truck haul road from Logan Airport to the City of Chelsea. The haul road would be integrated with a high-speed bus corridor comprising a segment of the Urban Ring, a new public transit corridor-encircling downtown Boston and located within six municipalities.

We urge you to approve the six-month extension request. Any questions you may have on this matter may be directed to Jim Gillooly, Deputy Commissioner at 617-635-3843. Thank you for your consideration on the matter.

Sincerely,

Andrea d'Amato
Commissioner

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THOMAS M. MENINO, Mayor
Andrea d'Amato, Commissioner

617-635-3843

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