



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Office of the Governor

Sean T. Connaughton  
Secretary of Transportation

February 28, 2013

JoAnn Burroughs  
Manager Network Services, CSXT  
500 Water Street – J-315  
Jacksonville, FL 32202

Dear Ms. Burroughs:

The Office of the Secretary of Transportation for the Commonwealth of Virginia is aware of CSX Transportation, Inc. (CSXT) intent to file with the Surface Transportation Board (STB) a Petition of Exemption, and that Norfolk Southern Corporation (NS) is proposing a Discontinuance of Service seeking authority to abandon the 1.55 track segment in the City of Richmond and County of Henrico which serves Lehigh Hanson Cement.

The proposed abandonment is a necessary and planned activity for the construction of the Virginia Capital Trail, connecting Richmond and Williamsburg. Portions of this project are under construction or already complete.

The Virginia Capital Trail is a public private partnership, and the portion constructed over the proposed abandonment will utilize funds primarily from the private sector. Other phases have received financial support from the City of Richmond and the Virginia Department of Transportation. CSXT and NS have cooperated in the effort to abandon this line, and the only customer served by this segment, Lehigh Hanson Cement, has agreed to re-locate at the request of the City of Richmond.

This will not be a bike/pedestrian trail next to an active rail line, and therefore does not fall under the processes established by Virginia Report Document No. 404: Rails with Trails/Pedestrian Crossing Project Initiation, Coordination and Review. The Commonwealth finds no apparent detriment to potential freight or passenger rail services due to the proposed abandonment. The Commonwealth supports CSXT in their effort to file for an Exemption with the STB to abandon the 1.55 mile rail segment served and maintained by CSXT and NS.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sean T. Connaughton", written over a horizontal line.

Sean T. Connaughton