



Alachua County Board of County Commissioners

Charles "Chuck" Chestnut, IV, *Chair*
Robert "Hutch" Hutchinson, *Vice Chair*
Mike Byerly
Ken Cornell
Lee Pinkoson

Administration
Dr. Lee A. Niblock, CM
County Manager

237412

December 9, 2014

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
January 8, 2015
Part of
Public Record

Ms. Cynthia T. Brown
Chief, Section of Administration
Office of Proceedings
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street S.W., Room 1034
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

Re: CSX Transportation Railroad Abandonment Alachua County (STB Docket No. AB-55-718-x)

Dear Ms. Brown:

This comment should be treated as petition for reconsideration in the above-captioned proceeding. This comment is filed on behalf of Alachua County, which is a political subdivision of the State of Florida, which is hereinafter referred to as 'Commenter'.

While not taking a position on the merits of this abandonment, Commenter requests a Certificate of Notice of Interim Trail Use rather than an outright abandonment authorization between Milepost AR 716.88 at High Springs and Milepost AR 726.69 at Newberry as well as between Milepost ARB 717.11 at High Springs and Milepost ARB 718.92 at High Springs in Alachua County, Florida.

This corridor has previously had a Certificate of Notice of Interim Trail Use granted to the Georgetown and High Line Railway Company, LLC. Alachua County, by filing of this petition, desires to have the Certificate transferred to Alachua County so that further negotiations with CSX Transportation, Inc. can continue.

The railroad right-of-way in this proceeding is suitable for railbanking. In addition to the Public Use Conditions sought above, Commenter 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 C.F.R. §1152.29, Alachua County is willing to assume full responsibility for management of, for any legal liability arising out of the transfer or use of, and for payment of any and all taxes that may be levied or assessed against the right-of-way owned by CSX Transportation, Inc.

P.O. Box 5547 ■ Gainesville, Florida 32627 ■ Tel. (352) 264-6900 ■ Fax (352) 338-7363
TDD (352) 491-4430
Commissioners' E-Mail: bocc@alachuacounty.us ■ Home Page: www.alachuacounty.us

FILING FEE WAIVED

The property, known as the High Springs-Newberry Line extends from railroad milepost AR 716.88 at High Springs to AR 726.69 at Newberry and milepost ARB 717.11 a distance of approximately 11.62 miles in Alachua County, Florida. The right-of-way is part of a line of railroad proposed for abandonment in STB Docket No. AB-55-718-x. A map depicting the right-of-way is attached.

Alachua County 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 tail service.

The County respectfully requests an extension to June 11, 2015 (180 days for the Negotiating Deadline). In addition, the County respectfully requests a waiver of the Board's filing fees in accordance with 49 CFR 1002.2(e)(1).

By my signature below, I certify service upon CSX Transportation, Inc., and the Georgetown and High Line Railway Company, LLC, the holder of the previous Certificate of Notice of Interim Trail Use.

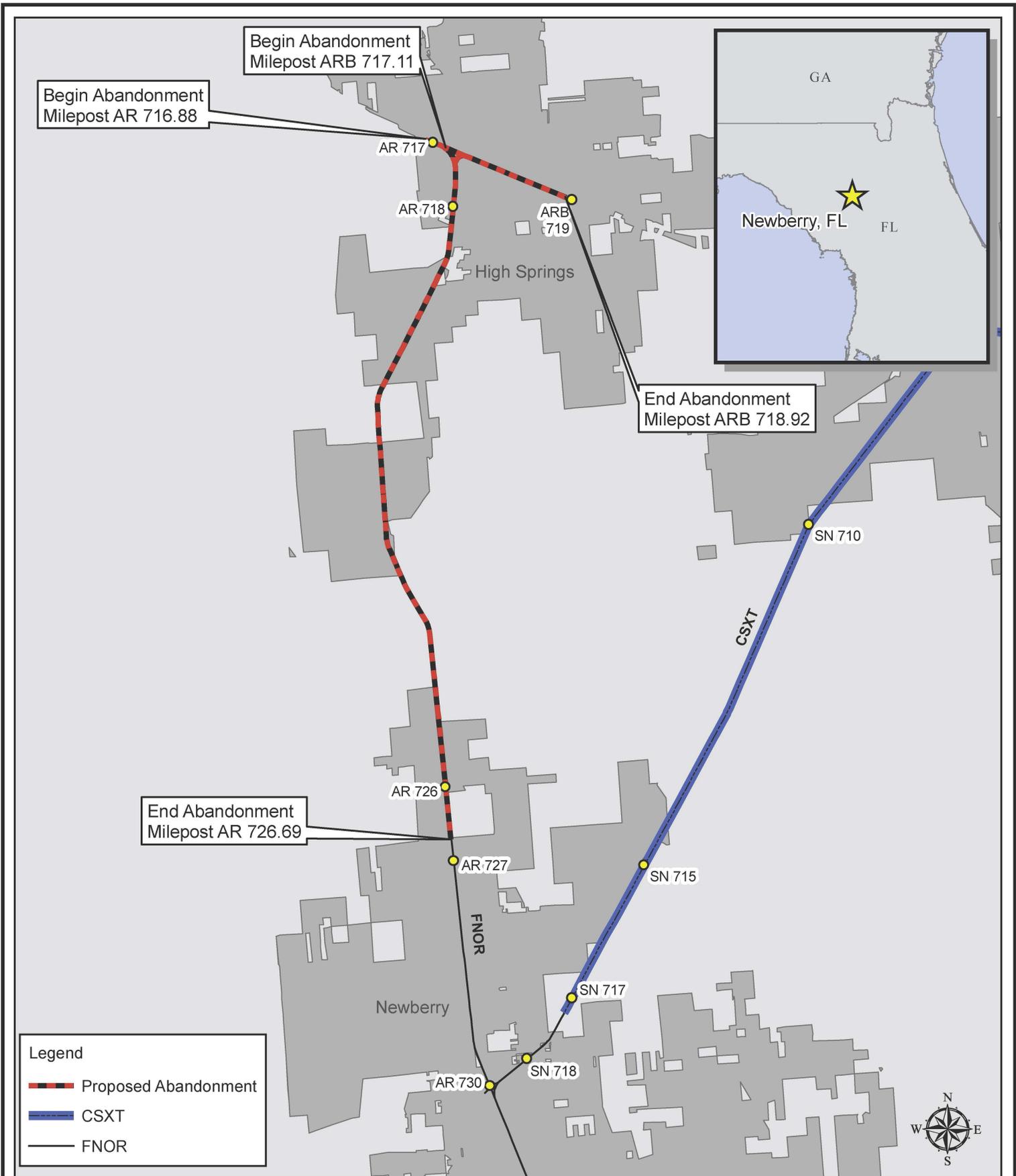
Sincerely,



Charles S. Chestnut, IV, Chair
Alachua County Commission
Chr15.013

CSC/CED/ced

cc: Board of County Commissioners
Dr. Lee A. Niblock, County Manager
Michele Lieberman, County Attorney
Department File



**CSX Transportation, Inc. Proposed Abandonment
and Florida Northern Railroad Company, Inc.
Discontinuance of Service
Jacksonville Division - Former West Coast Subdivision**

AR 716.88 at High Springs to AR 726.69 at Newberry
ARB 717.11 at High Springs to ARB 718.92 at High Springs
A distance of 11.62 Miles +/-

Alachua County, FL

STB Docket No. AB 55 (Sub-No. 718X)
STB Docket No. AB 507 (Sub-No. 1X)



CSX Real Property, Inc.
FL-001-1049392



Creation Date: Mar. 23, 2012

S:\PIN\FL12\FL0011001-0040\FL-001-1049392