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Office of Proceedings
October 20, 2014
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Public Record

Martha L. White
Town Administrator

October 7, 2014

Via electronic mail <http://www.stb.dot.gov>

Cynthia T. Brown
Chief, Section of Administration
Office of Proceedings
Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

 GRANTED Office of Proceedings	DECISION ID NO.: <u>44083</u>
	DECIDED DATE: <u>10/30/14</u>
	SERVICE DATE: <u>10/30/14</u>
	APPROVED: <u>Rachid Campbell</u> Director
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>extended to 4/12/15.</u>	

RE: Docket No. AB-55 (Sub-No. 670X), CSX Transportation, Inc.—
Abandonment Exemption—in Middlesex County, Massachusetts

Dear Ms. Brown:

I am writing on behalf of The Town of Natick, Massachusetts (the "Town") to request a 180-day extension of the deadline for negotiations with CSX Transportation, Inc. ("CSXT") regarding the Notice of Interim Trail Use in the above-captioned proceeding. Pursuant to the October 25, 2006 initial decision of the Surface Transportation Board (the "Board"), and subsequent extensions, the negotiating period has been extended until October 14, 2014. CSXT and the Town of Natick both wish to continue our negotiations.

We have reached the 25% design level for a recreational trail on the subject property and adjoining CSXT-owned land, and this design has been submitted to the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) for review and approval. Further, later this month, we will be requesting the Natick Town Meeting to appropriate \$300,000 in additional funds so that we may advance the project to 75% design and beyond. Once the design is 75% complete, an acquisition may go forward, according to the procedure set forth by MassDOT; we anticipate reaching that stage by 2016.

Negotiations between the parties are productive, and it is the Town's belief and hope that we will come to an agreement in the near future. Accordingly, the Town respectfully requests an additional 180 day extension of the Negotiating Deadline. CSXT concurs with this request and will file a separate letter once the Town's filing has been received by the STB.

In addition, the Town respectfully requests a waiver of the Board's filing fees in accordance with 49 CFR 1002.2(e)(1). Thank you for your assistance.

FILING FEE WAIVED