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CITY OF ATHENS

236417

Austin Fesmire, CPRP
Director
Parks and Recreation Department

August 8, 2014

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
August 8, 2014
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Public Record

Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

**Re: CSX Transportation Abandonment of the Athens Branch in McMinn County, Tennessee,
(STB Docket No. AB-55/Sub No. 694X)**

Dear Secretary:

I am writing on behalf of McMinn County, Tennessee to request another 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 with respect to the 6.4 mile portion of the line ("the Athens Branch") that extends northwest from near Englewood to Athens. (between OKW327.0 and OKW333.4 including both spurs located after OKW 332). Pursuant to the attached April 25, 2014 decision ("the Decision") of the Surface Transportation Board ("the Board"), an agreement for interim trail use/rail banking expires August 17, 2014 ("Negotiating Deadline").

As previously reported, McMinn County has completed the purchase of OKW332.61 to OKW328.47 and would request that the extension be relative to the remainder of the above mentioned line which is from OKW328.47 to OKW327.0. We are in the process of requesting further funding through the federal RTP program and private donors so that we might complete this purchase however we need additional time to pursue this funding opportunity.

The County respectfully requests an extension to February 13, 2015 (180 calendar days for the Negotiating Deadline). In addition, the County respectfully requests a waiver of the Boards filing fees in accordance with 49 CFR 1002.2(e)(1).

Respectfully submitted,

Austin Fesmire
City of Athens

cc: Kevin Hurley, CSX
John Gentry, McMinn County Mayor
Mitchell Moore, Athens City Manager

Attachment: April 25 Decision

 GRANTED	DECISION ID NO.: <u>43984</u>
	DECIDED DATE: <u>8/22/14</u>
	SERVICE DATE: <u>8/25/14</u>
	APPROVED: <u>Lucretia Campbell</u> Director
Office of Proceedings	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>Waived to 2/13/15.</u>

FILING FEE WAIVED