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CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
CITY OF CHICAGO

February 11, 2016

VIA E-FILING

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

Karl Morell  
Ball Janik LLP  
655 15<sup>th</sup> Street NW, Suite 225  
Washington, DC 20005

Re: BNSF Railway Company--Abandonment Exemption--in Cook County, IL, STB  
Docket No. AB-6 (Sub-No. 482X)

Dear Board:

The City of Chicago, an Illinois municipal corporation, acting by and through its Department of Transportation ("City"), hereby petitions the Surface Transportation Board ("Board") for an order modifying and extending its Decision and Notice of Interim Trail Use or Abandonment ("NITU") in the above-referenced matter for an additional 180 days, through and including September 7, 2016.

On January 29, 2013, the City filed a request for issuance of a notice of interim trail use (NITU) and public use condition ("Petition") for the line proposed for abandonment in Docket No. AB-6 (Sub-No. 482X), between Station 36+70 (north of the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal Bridge) and Station 149+87 (at the end of the track near Western Avenue), referred to herein as the "Rail Line."

On April 9, 2013, the Board issued its NITU, as part of STB decision #42859, permitting the City to negotiate with BNSF Railway Company ("BNSF") for trail use for the Rail Line.

Since that date, BNSF has reiterated the City's interest in pursuing railbanking of the corridor as part of its own filings for extensions of the consummation deadline, including the one resulting in STB decision #44311. Now, the City has been asked to make formal petition to show continued interest in this corridor.

**FILING FEE WAIVED**

Indeed, the City has continued activities in earnest toward potential acquisition of the rail line for trail use, hiring engineering consultants to assist in conducting the "BNSF-Little Village Paseo Feasibility Study."

Efforts in this study have included: evaluation of existing land use and traffic conditions, safety analysis of converting rail grade crossings to trail crossings, conceptual design for a potential "paseo" trail and key access points, and nine meetings with community organizations and representatives of Cook County which operates adjacent facilities.

A public meeting is planned for March 2016 with a final study report to follow. Further work to secure funding, conduct environmental testing, and further design work will still be needed to pursue a trail project. The City requests additional time to continue these activities.

In support of its request for additional time, the City renews its Petition and its Statement of Willingness to Assume Financial Responsibility.

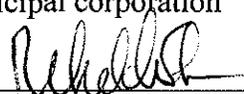
A copy of this statement is being served on BNSF on the same date it is being served on the Board. By my signature below, I certify service upon Karl Morell, Ball Janik LLP, 655 15<sup>th</sup> Street NW, Suite 225, Washington, DC 20005, by U.S. Mail, postage prepaid, first class, this 11<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2016.

Pursuant to 49 C.F.R. § 1002.2(e)(1), the filing fee for this request is waived.

Respectfully submitted,

**CITY OF CHICAGO**, an Illinois  
municipal corporation

By: \_\_\_\_\_

  
Rebekah Scheinfeld  
Commissioner of Transportation





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By my signature below, I certify that the City of Chicago has served copies of its February 11, 2016 filing upon all parties of record in this proceeding by U.S. Mail. Mr. Morell and Mr. McFarland were served on February 11, 2016; Mr. Rohter and Mr. Novak were served on February 16, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,

**CITY OF CHICAGO**, an Illinois  
municipal corporation

By:    
Rebekah Scheinfeld  
Commissioner of Transportation