



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY MAYOR

JOHN M. GENTRY
County Mayor

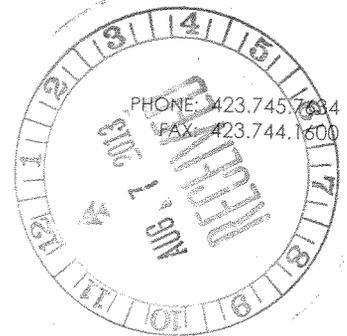
6 East Madison Avenue
Athens, Tennessee 37303
www.mcminncountyttn.gov

234640

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings

AUG 01 2013

Part of
Public Record



August 1, 2013

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 February 8, 2013 decision ("the Decision") of the Surface Transportation Board ("the Board"), an agreement for interim trail use/rail banking expires August 22, 2013 ("Negotiating Deadline").

As you are aware, converting railways into trails is often a long process. We are happy to inform you that CSX and local governments in McMinn County are close to an agreement on the property to be purchased, and the negotiation phase is near completion. Various grants are being utilized to purchase this property, however, and we are taking the necessary steps to comply with the requirements of those grants.

The County respectfully requests an extension to February 18, 2014 (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,


John M. Gentry
McMinn County Mayor

cc: Bruce McMahan
Elizabeth Steel

FILING FEE WAIVED