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Austin Fesmire, CPRP  
Director of Park and Recreation

## CITY OF ATHENS

March 12, 2014

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Office of Proceedings  
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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 February 8, 2013 decision ("the Decision") of the Surface Transportation Board ("the Board"), an agreement for interim trail use/rail banking expires February 18, 2014 ("Negotiating Deadline").

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 through the federal RTP program so that we might complete this purchase however we need additional time to pursue this funding opportunity.

The County respectfully requests an extension to August 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,

Austin Fesmire  
City of Athens

cc: Elizabeth Steel, CSX  
John Gentry, McMinn County Mayor  
Mitchell Moore, Athens City Manager

# FILING FEE WAIVED