



COUNTY OF GRANVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA

122 Williamsboro Street • Post Office Box 877 • Oxford, North Carolina 27565

Granville County Development Services
Planning (919) 603-1331
Inspections (919) 603-1326
Construction Administration (919) 603-1425
Fax (919) 693-6794



May 11, 2009

(Notice of Comment Regarding Granville County, NC)

Honorable Anne K. Quinlan
Acting Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings

MAY 18 2009

Part of
Public Record

225125

RE: Docket No. AB-290 (Sub-No. 316X) Norfolk Southern Railway Company –
Discontinuance of Service Exemption – Mecklenburg County, VA and Granville County,
NC (Clarksville, VA to at Oxford & Henderson Railroad Junction near Oxford, NC)
Docket No. AB-866 (Sub-No. 2X), North Carolina & Virginia Railroad Co., Inc., Virginia:
Southern Railroad Division – Mecklenburg County, VA and Granville County, NC
(Clarksville, VA to at Oxford and Henderson Railroad Junction near Oxford, NC)

Dear Acting Secretary Quinlan:

Please accept this as notice of Comment. The Granville County Greenway Advisory Council takes no position on the discontinuance of rail service between Oxford, the county seat, and Clarksville, VA. There has been no rail service on the line for at least 15 years. In places, the tracks are not visible for the trees growing up between the railroad ties and the heavy foliage. Some adjacent property owners have mowed and maintained the right of way that crosses their property. In the Town of Stovall and the Bullock community, the tracks and rail bed has been incorporated as a community landscape feature, with benches and picnic tables.

This notice of Comment regards Granville County's adopted Greenway Master Plan 2006, which identifies the 15.25 mile trail corridor between Oxford-Clarkesville as part of a two state regional rail trail linking Virginia's Tobacco Heritage Trail in Mecklenburg County, VA, and the American Tobacco Trail in Durham County, NC. Under CFR 1152 Subpart F Exempt Abandonments only Norfolk Southern Railroad can request the Surface Transportation Board to assign a "Notice of Interim Trail Use Certificate" to the corridor. It is Granville County's intent to initiate a dialogue with Norfolk Southern regarding such a request to accomplish the Granville County Greenway Master Plan's goal of a trail of regional significance.

The 1992 Penn State Study on Impact of Rail-Trails, concludes that a 10 miles rail trail can generate 1/2 million dollars of recreational and tourism spending annually. A rail trail is an alternative active transportation corridor for walking, bicycling and horseback riding. If federally

rail banked, the corridor will have both economic and environmental benefits for Granville County and the region.

Thank you for receiving this comment.

Sincerely,



Robert Shope, Chairman
Granville Greenways Advisory Council

cc:

Jimmy Bowman, Industrial Development Manager, NC
Norfolk Southern Railroad
1500 Carson Street
Raleigh, NC 27608

Durwood S. Laughinghouse, Resident Vice President –Government Relations, NC
Norfolk Southern Railroad
1500 Carson Street
Raleigh, NC 27608

W. Bruce Wingo, Resident Vice President –Government Relations, VA
Norfolk Southern Railroad
325 Old City Hall
1001 East Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23219

North Carolina and Virginia Railroad
214 N. Railroad Street
Ahoskie, NC 27910

Mr. John M. Scheib, Esq.
General Attorney
Three Commerce Place
Norfolk, VA 23510-2191

Louis E. Gitomer
600 Baltimore Avenue, Suite 301
Towson, MD 21204

Mr. Timothy Baynes, Executive Director
Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments
1724 Graham Avenue
P.O. Box 709
Henderson, NC 27536

US Congressman, Representative Brad Miler
1300 St. Mary's Street, Suite 504
Raleigh, NC 27605

1127 Longworth Building
Washington, DC 20515

US Congresswoman, Senator Kay Hagan
310 New Bern Avenue
Raleigh, NC 27601

521 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

**Governor Bev Perdue
Office of the Governor
20301 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-0301**

**Secretary Gene Conti
NCDOT Transportation
1501 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1501**

**Secretary Dee A. Freeman
NCDENR
1601 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1601**

**Alisa Bailey, President and CEO
Virginia Department of Tourism
901 East Byrd Street
Richmond, VA 23219**

**Joseph H Maroon, Agency Director
Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation Development
203 Governor Street, Suite 302,
Richmond, VA 23219-2094**

**James K. "Jay" Tilley, Executive Director
Granville County Economic Development Commission
310 Williamsboro Street
P.O. Box 26
Oxford, NC 27565**

**NC Representative Jimmy Crawford
P.O. Box 5144
Henderson, NC 27536**

**NC Senator Doug Berger
P.O. Box 1101
Youngsville, NC 27596**