



**CITY OF ANNISTON**

P.O. Box 2168  
Anniston, AL 36202



OFFICE OF CITY MANAGER

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February 13, 2007

218671

Office of the Secretary  
Surface Transportation Board  
1925 K Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20423

RE: Norfolk Southern Right-of-Way Company-Abandonment-Calhoun County, Alabama  
STB Docket No. AB-290 (Sub. No. 265X) MP 55.3 N to MP 61.1 North

Dear Sir:

Again this is to advise you that the City of Anniston remains in active negotiations with Norfolk Southern Railway for acquisition of the above corridor proposed for abandonment as referenced.

We previously requested an extension of time for the negotiating period with Norfolk Southern which was extended by your order of August 31, 2006 until February 27, 2007.

Kindly be advised that we have again been delayed in our negotiations with Norfolk Southern as a result of Norfolk Southern's difficulty in acquiring appraisals for this corridor. Those appraisals are now in Norfolk Southern's hands and being reviewed by Norfolk Southern's staff. We anticipate active negotiations in the very near future, but will not be able to meet the February 27<sup>th</sup> deadline. Accordingly, the City of Anniston respectfully requests an additional extension of time for an additional 180 days to permit our negotiations to go forward.

The Board should be advised of the City's intent to utilize this corridor for the completion of the Chief Ladiga Rails to Trails Program which, will commence along this abandoned corridor soon after abandonment and, when completed, will constitute a 100 mile Rails to Trails recreational facility extending from Anniston one hundred miles to the east to Atlanta, Georgia. A great deal of notoriety has been given to this trail and we are eager to pursue our negotiations with Norfolk Southern for this purpose.

Norfolk Southern has indicated it's consistent to this request.

Very truly yours,

George A. Monk  
City Manager

GAM/mb

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FEB 21 2007

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Public Record

**FILING FEE WAIVED**

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