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ROANOKE RIVER RAILS-TO-TRAILS, INC.

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May 8, 2007

Honorable Vernon A. Williams, Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
MAY 16 2007
Part of
Public Record

Re: Docket Number AB-290 (Sub-No. 287 X) Norfolk Southern Railway Company
-Proposed Abandonment of the segment of rail between Milepost FD 90.2 and Milepost
FD 95.2, a distance of 5.0 miles in Lawrenceville, Brunswick County, Virginia.

Dear Secretary Williams:

This comment should be treated as a petition for reconsideration in the above captioned proceeding. This comment is filed on behalf of the Roanoke River Rails-to-Trails, Inc., which is a 501(c) (3) tax-exempt Virginia corporation, interested in conservation and recreation and which is hereinafter referred to as 'Commenter'. Roanoke River Rails-to-Trails, Inc. was formed for the purpose of acquiring abandoned railroad rights-of-way for the development of the Tobacco Heritage Trail system.

While not taking a position on the merits of this abandonment, Commenter requests issuance of a Public Use Condition as well as a Certificate or Notice of Interim Trail Use rather than an outright abandonment authorization between Milepost FD 90.2 and Milepost FD 95.2 in Lawrenceville, Virginia.

A. Public Use Condition

Commenter requests the STB to find that this property is suitable for other public use, specifically trail use, and to place the following conditions on the abandonment:

An order prohibiting the carrier from disposing of the corridor, other than the tracks, ties, and signal equipment, except for public use on reasonable terms. The justification for this condition is that the corridor in question connects to the Tobacco Heritage Trail, a non-motorized trail under development on 40 miles of former ROW purchased from Norfolk Southern in 2006. The corridor is the natural continuation of this recreational

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trail and provides a greenspace connection to the downtown of Lawrenceville including St. Paul's College, residences, a commercial area, and a park.

The time period sought is 180 days from the effective date of the abandonment authorization. Commenter needs this much time to review title information and commence negotiations with the carrier.

Commenter requests an order barring removal of bridges, trestles, and culverts. The justification for this request is that these structures have considerable value for recreational trail purposes. The time period requested is 180 days from the effective date of abandonment authorization for the same reason as indicated above.

B. Interim Trail Use

The railroad right-of-way in this proceeding is suitable for rail banking. In addition to the public use conditions sought above, Commenter also makes the following request:

STATEMENT OF WILLINGNESS TO ASSUME FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

In order to establish interim trail use and rail banking under section 8(d) of the National Trails System Act, 16 U.S.C. § 1247 (d), and 49 C.F.R. §1152.29, Roanoke River Rails to Trails, Inc. is willing to assume full responsibility for management of and for any legal liability arising out of the transfer or use of the transferred right-of-way to the full extent permitted by the Virginia Tort Claims Act.

The property, known as the Norfolk and Southern Railway, extends from milepost FD 90.2 to milepost FD 95.2, a distance of 5.0 miles in Lawrenceville, Brunswick County, Virginia.. The right-of-way is part of a line of railroad proposed for abandonment in STB Docket Number AB-290 (Sub-No. 287 X).

A map depicting the right-of-way is attached.

Roanoke River Rails-to-Trails, Inc. acknowledges that use of the right-of-way is subject to the users continuing to meet its responsibilities described above and subject to possible future reconstruction and reactivation of the right-of-way for rail service.

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By my signature below, I certify service of a copy of this statement upon Norfolk Southern Railway Company, by U. S. Mail, postage pre-paid, first class, this 8th day of May 2007.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sandra F. Tanner".

Sandra F. Tanner, President
Roanoke River Rails-to-Trails, Inc.

W/encl.

Cc: James R. Paschall
Norfolk Southern
Three Commercial Place
Norfolk, Virginia 23510-2191

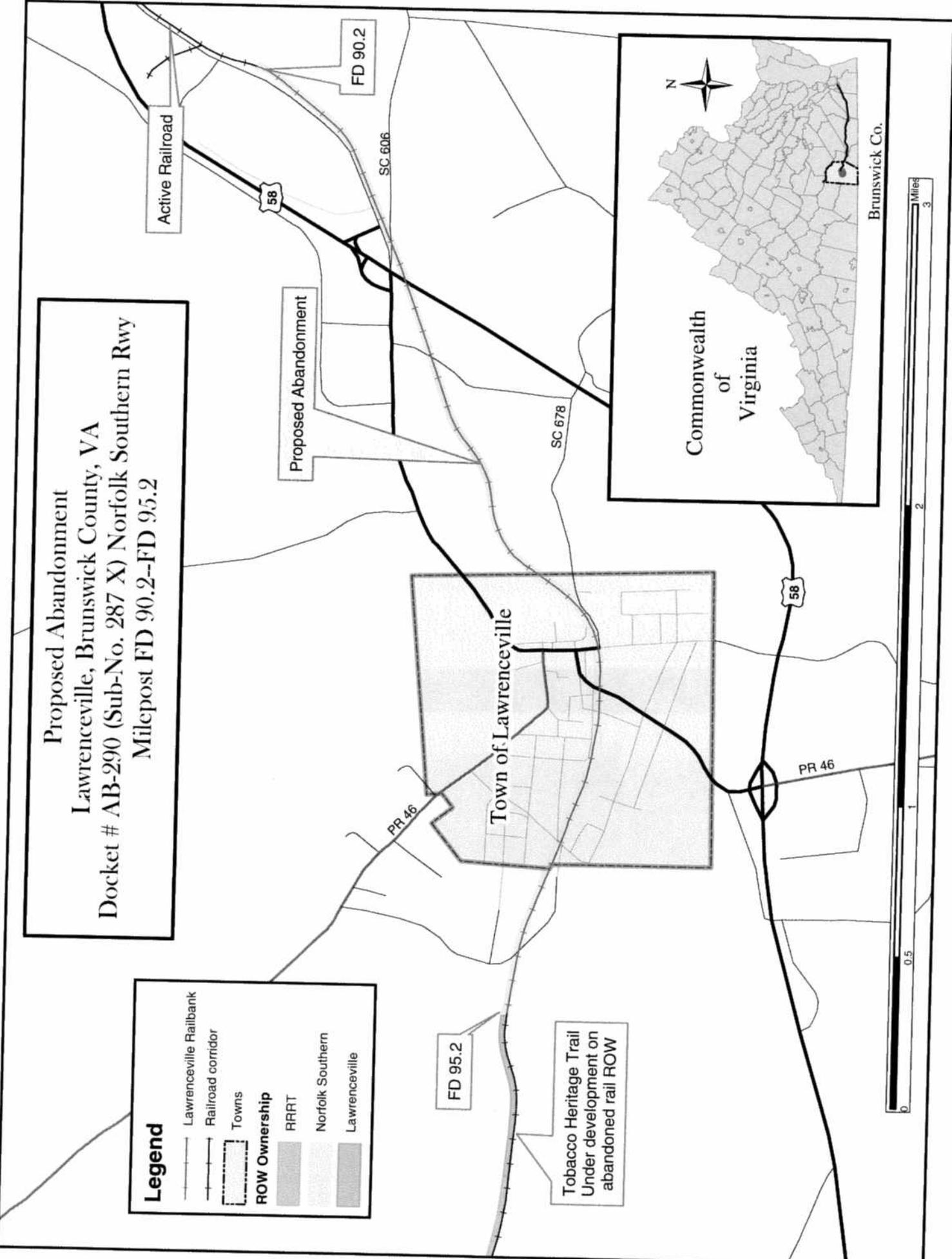
Proposed Abandonment
Lawrenceville, Brunswick County, VA
Docket # AB-290 (Sub-No. 287 X) Norfolk Southern Rwy
Milepost FD 90.2--FD 95.2

Legend

- Lawrenceville Railbank
- Railroad corridor
- Towns

ROW Ownership

- RRRT
- Norfolk Southern
- Lawrenceville



Tobacco Heritage Trail
 Under development on
 abandoned rail ROW