



**TOWN OF NATICK**  
**Massachusetts 01760**  
*www.natickma.gov*

*Martha L. White*  
*Town Administrator*

May 15, 2008

**Via electronic mail <http://www.stb.dot.gov>**

Honorable Vernon A. Williams, Secretary  
Surface Transportation Board  
395 E Street, S.W.  
Washington, D. C. 20423

RE: Docket No. AB-55 (Sub-No. 670X), *CSX Transportation, Inc.—  
Abandonment Exemption—in Middlesex County, Massachusetts*

Dear Secretary Williams:

I am writing on behalf of The Town of Natick, Massachusetts (the "Town") to request a 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. Pursuant to the October 25, 2006 initial decision of the Surface Transportation Board (the "Board"), and subsequent extensions, an agreement for interim trail use/rail banking expires May 17, 2008 ("Negotiating Deadline").

Although CSXT and the Town have not reached an agreement regarding the NITU, the parties desire to continue negotiations for an NITU. CSX has completed its appraisal of the right-of-way, and the Town is in the process of hiring its appraiser. We have issued a Request for Proposals for appraisal services but, unfortunately received just one response. We have re-issued the RFP and adjusted the terms such that we anticipate a more competitive process. Accordingly, the Town respectfully requests an additional 180 day extension of the Negotiating Deadline. CSXT concurs with this request and will file a separate letter once the Town's filing has been received by the STB.

In addition, the Town respectfully requests a waiver of the Board's filing fees in accordance with 49 CFR 1002.2(e)(1). Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Martha White,  
Town Administrator

cc: Parties of Record

*Town Administrator, 13 East Central Street, Natick, MA, 01760. 508.647.6410. Fax (508) 647-6401*