

12047 of March 27, 1978, the Foreign Affairs Reform and Restructuring Act of 1998 (112 Stat. 2681, *et seq.*; 22 U.S.C. 6501 note, *et seq.*), Delegation of Authority No. 234 of October 1, 1999, Delegation of Authority No. 236–3 of August 28, 2000, and Delegation of Authority No. 523 of December 22, 2021.

**Sherry C. Keneson-Hall,**

*Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Educational and Cultural Affairs, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, Department of State.*

[FR Doc. 2026–05538 Filed 3–19–26; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4710–05–P**

**SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD**

**60-Day Notice of Intent To Seek Extension of Approval of Collection: Statutory Authority To Preserve Rail Service**

**AGENCY:** Surface Transportation Board.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** As part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork burdens, and as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), the Surface

Transportation Board (Board) gives notice of its intent to request from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval without change of the existing collection, Preservation of Rail Service, OMB Control No. 2140–0022, as described below.

**DATES:** Comments on this information collection should be submitted by May 19, 2026.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all comments to Chris Oehrle, PRA Officer, Surface Transportation Board, 395 E Street SW, Washington, DC 20423–0001, or to [PRA@stb.gov](mailto:PRA@stb.gov). When submitting comments, please refer to “Paperwork Reduction Act Comments, Statutory Authority to Preserve Rail Service.”

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For further information regarding this collection, contact Mike Higgins at (866) 254–1792 (toll-free) or 202–245–0238, or by emailing [rcpa@stb.gov](mailto:rcpa@stb.gov). Assistance for the hearing impaired is available through the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1–800–877–8339.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Comments are requested concerning each collection as to (1) whether the particular collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Board, including

whether the collection has practical utility; (2) the accuracy of the Board’s burden estimates; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on the respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology, when appropriate. Submitted comments will be included and summarized in the Board’s request for OMB approval.

**Subjects:** In this notice, the Board is requesting comments on the extension of the following information collection:

**Description of Collection**

*Title:* Preservation of Rail Service.

*OMB Control Number:* 2140–0022.

*STB Form Number:* None.

*Type of Review:* Extension without change.

*Respondents:* Affected shippers, communities, or other interested persons seeking to preserve rail service over rail lines that are proposed or identified for abandonment, and railroads that are required to provide information to the offeror or applicant: Approximately 25.

*Frequency:* On occasion, as follows:

**TABLE—NUMBER OF YEARLY RESPONSES**

Type of filing	Estimated annual average number of filings (2023–2025)
Offer of Financial Assistance (and related filings) .....	2
Request for Public Use Condition .....	1
Feeder Line Application .....	1
Trail Use Request (with extensions) .....	23

*Total Burden Hours (annually including all respondents):* 281 hours (total of estimated hours per response ×

number of responses for each type of filing).

**TABLE—ESTIMATED TOTAL BURDEN HOURS**

Type of filing	Estimated annual average number of filings (2023–2025)	Number of hours per response	Total estimated burden hours
Offer of Financial Assistance (and related filings) .....	2	46	92
Request for Public Use Condition .....	1	4	4
Feeder Line Application .....	1	70	70
Trail Use Request (with extensions) .....	23	5	115
<b>Total burden hours</b> .....			<b>281</b>

*Total “Non-hour Burden” Cost:* None identified. Filings may be submitted electronically to the Board.

*Needs and Uses:* The Surface Transportation Board is, by statute, responsible for the economic regulation

of common carrier freight railroads and certain other carriers operating in the United States. Under the laws the Board administers, persons seeking to preserve rail service may file pleadings before the Board to acquire or subsidize a rail line

for continued service, or to impose a trail use or public use condition.

When a line is proposed for abandonment, affected shippers, communities, or other interested persons may seek to preserve rail

service by filing with the Board: an offer of financial assistance (OFA) to subsidize or purchase a rail line for which a railroad is seeking abandonment (49 U.S.C. 10904), including a request for the Board to set terms and conditions of the financial assistance; a request for a public use condition (§ 10905); or a trail use request (16 U.S.C. 1247(d)). Similarly, when a line is placed on a system diagram map identifying it as an anticipated or potential candidate for abandonment, affected shippers, communities, or other interested persons may seek to preserve rail service by filing with the Board a feeder line application to purchase the identified rail line (§ 10907).

Additionally, the railroad owning the rail line subject to abandonment must, in some circumstances, provide information to the applicant or offeror.

As to trail use, the STB will issue a CITU or NITU to a prospective trail sponsor who seeks an interim trail use agreement with the rail carrier of the rail line that is being abandoned. The CITU/NITU permits parties to negotiate for an interim trail use agreement. The parties may also agree to an extension of the negotiating period. If parties reach an agreement, then they must jointly notify the Board of that fact and of any modification or vacancy of the agreement. There is a one-year period for any initial interim trail use negotiating period (with potential extensions).

The Board makes this submission because, under the PRA, a federal agency that conducts or sponsors a collection of information must display a currently valid OMB control number. A collection of information, which is defined in 44 U.S.C. 3502(3) and 5 CFR 1320.3(c), includes agency requirements that persons submit reports, keep records, or provide information to the agency, third parties, or the public. Under 44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A), federal agencies are required to provide, prior to an agency's submitting a collection to OMB for approval, a 60-day notice and comment period through publication in the **Federal Register** concerning each proposed collection of information, including each proposed extension of an existing collection of information.

Dated: March 17, 2026.

**Eden Besera,**  
Clearance Clerk.

[FR Doc. 2026-05490 Filed 3-19-26; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4915-01-P**

## **SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD**

[Docket No. AB 55 (Sub-No. 826X)]

### **CSX Transportation, Inc.— Discontinuance Exemption—in Cook County, Ill**

CSX Transportation, Inc. (CSXT), has filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 CFR part 1152 subpart F—*Exempt Abandonments and Discontinuances of Service* to discontinue service over an approximately 1.32-mile rail line on its Altenheim Subdivision from milepost BIH 0.93 to milepost BIH 2.25 in Cook County, Ill. (the Line). The Line traverses U.S. Postal Service Zip Code 60804.

CSXT has certified that: (1) no local freight traffic has moved over the Line during the past two years; (2) any overhead traffic can be rerouted over other lines; (3) no formal complaint filed by a user of rail service on the Line (or by a state or local government on behalf of such user) regarding cessation of service over the Line either is pending with the Surface Transportation Board or any U.S. District Court or has been decided in favor of a complainant within the two-year period; and (4) the requirements at 49 CFR 1105.12 (newspaper publication) and 49 CFR 1152.50(d)(1) (notice to government agencies) have been met.

As a condition to this exemption, any employee adversely affected by the discontinuance of service shall be protected under *Oregon Short Line Railroad—Abandonment Portion Goshen Branch Between Firth & Ammon, in Bingham & Bonneville Counties, Idaho*, 360 I.C.C. 91 (1979). To address whether this condition adequately protects affected employees, a petition for partial revocation under 49 U.S.C. 10502(d) must be filed.

Provided no formal expression of intent to file an offer of financial assistance (OFA) to subsidize continued rail service has been received,<sup>1</sup> this exemption will be effective on April 19, 2026 unless stayed pending reconsideration. Petitions to stay that do not involve environmental issues and formal expressions of intent to file an OFA to subsidize continued rail service under 49 CFR 1152.27(c)(2)<sup>2</sup> must be

<sup>1</sup> Persons interested in submitting an OFA to subsidize continued rail service must first file a formal expression of intent to file an offer, indicating the intent to file an OFA for subsidy and demonstrating that they are preliminarily financially responsible. See 49 CFR 1152.27(c)(2)(i).

<sup>2</sup> The filing fee for OFAs can be found at 49 CFR 1002.2(f)(25).

filed by March 30, 2026.<sup>3</sup> Petitions for reconsideration must be filed by April 9, 2026.

All pleadings, referring to Docket No. AB 55 (Sub-No. 826X), must be filed with the Surface Transportation Board either via e-filing on the Board's website or in writing addressed to 395 E Street SW, Washington, DC 20423-0001. A copy of each pleading filed with the Board must be served on CSXT's representative, Louis E. Gitomer, Law Offices of Louis E. Gitomer, LLC, 600 Baltimore Avenue, Suite 301, Towson, MD 21204.

If the verified notice contains false or misleading information, the exemption is void ab initio.

Board decisions and notices are available at [www.stb.gov](http://www.stb.gov).

Decided: March 17, 2026.

By the Board, Anika S. Cooper, Chief Counsel, Office of Chief Counsel.

**Kenyatta Clay,**  
Clearance Clerk.

[FR Doc. 2026-05485 Filed 3-19-26; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4915-01-P**

## **SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD**

[Docket No. EP 558 (Sub-No. 29)]

### **Railroad Cost of Capital—2025**

**AGENCY:** Surface Transportation Board.  
**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Board is instituting a proceeding to determine the railroad industry's cost of capital for 2025. The decision solicits comments on the following issues: the railroads' 2025 current cost of debt capital, the railroads' 2025 current cost of preferred equity capital (if any), the railroads' 2025 cost of common equity capital, and the 2025 capital structure mix of the railroad industry on a market value basis.

**DATES:** Notices of intent to participate are due by May 1, 2026. Statements of the railroads are due by May 22, 2026. Statements of other interested persons are due by June 12, 2026. Rebuttal statements by the railroads are due by July 2, 2026.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments may be filed with the Board via e-filing on the Board's website.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Pedro Ramirez at (202) 915-0862. If you require an accommodation under the

<sup>3</sup> Because this is a discontinuance proceeding and not an abandonment, interim trail use/rail banking and public use conditions are not appropriate. Because there will be an environmental review during abandonment, this discontinuance does not require environmental review.