

CURRENT IOWA RAILROAD ABANDONMENT STATUS

Iowa Department of Transportation, Office of Rail Transportation

Updated March 17, 2026

The state of Iowa has no regulatory authority concerning railroad abandonments. The federal Surface Transportation Board, (STB) is the only entity with regulatory authority pertaining to railroad abandonments. The following information is obtained from the STB website.

This status report indicates the abandonment actions before the Surface Transportation Board (STB) as of the date indicated above.

Updates included in this status are obtained from the Surface Transportation Board website: <http://www.stb.gov>

All actions before the STB for a specific abandonment (or more recent actions) can be found by entering the docket number in the Search on the STB website: <https://www.stb.gov/proceedings-actions/search-stb-records/>

This document is updated quarterly. It is recommended that stakeholders visit the STB website directly for the most current information.

Highway authorities: Once the rail is removed from the crossing and the surface restored, highway authorities are responsible for removing any advance warning signs, pavement markings and any other signage related to the highway-railroad crossing at or near the location of the following crossings. Once the crossing is restored and signage removed, highway authorities are asked to advise the Iowa DOT rail abandonment coordinator (listed below) so that the state-wide highway-railroad crossing inventory database can be updated.

Kris Klop, Railroad Abandonment Coordinator 515-239-1108 kristopher.klop@iowadot.us

Any questions about current or past abandonments can be directed to Kris Klop at 515-239-1108 or kristopher.klop@iowadot.us

*The effective date can be stayed for any number of possible reasons. This date represents the earliest possible date the abandonment can be effective. The most common reason for a stay is for trails use negotiation.

** A railroad has one year after a successful abandonment action to consummate or complete the abandonment. Most often, removal of rail & signals, restoration of any crossing surfaces, etc. occurs within that one year period, but is not required to occur in a specific time frame. When purchased for trails use, removal of rail, signals, restoration of any crossing surfaces, etc. may occur during the negotiation period or is negotiated between the railroad and trail owner after a sale.

STB Docket Number:	AB-1269-1-X	Railroad:	Iowa Traction Railway Company	
Mason City		County or Counties:	Cerro Gordo	
Including MP 155.5, approximately 100 yards south of Elm Dr. to MP 152.5, approximately 600 yards north of County HWY B-20.		Initial Effective Date*:		
		Trail Use Status:	Open	
		Consummation or Sale Date**:		
	Date	Action	Filed by	Comments
Initial Abandonment Filing:	10/28/2019	Environmental Materials	Iowa Traction Railway Company (IATR)	
Latest Action:	4/6/2020	Modify/ Supplement Prior Filing or the Record	Iowa Traction Railway Company	Provided notice that Iowa Traction Railway Company filed a verified notice of exemption to discontinue service over a three-mile rail line in Cerro Gordo county, Iowa.

At-Grade Crossings affected by the abandonment (Note responsibilities of highway authorities indicated in header above) :

Railroad	FRA #	RR Milepost	State Hwy # (if applicable)	City/County Street	City/County
UP	201851C	155.7		4th St. NE	Mason City
UP	201850V	155.9		3rd St. NE	Mason City
UP	201849B	156.1		E State St.	Mason City
UP	201848U	156.2		1st St. SE	Mason City