September 15, 2026

Current Iowa Railroad Abandonment Status

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.

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/

Any questions about current or past abandonments can be directed to Maria Hobbs, Railroad Abandonment Coordinator at phone: 515-239-1088 or email at maria.hobbs@iowadot.us

*** 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.*

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

**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.*

Railroad Crossing Affected and FRA Crossing Data is available below.

Current Action Norfolk Southern Railway

STB Docket No.	AB_290_424_X
Railroad Name:	Norfolk Southern Railway
County (ies)	Polk
Initial Effective Date *	02/26/2027
Trail Use Status	Open Until 07/31/2027
Consummation or Sale Date **	
Initial Abandonment Filing Date	04/14/26
Action	Decision Abandonment Exemption and Trail Negotiation
Filed By	Norfolk Southern Railway Company
Mile Post	Approximately 340.8 to 353.0
Latest Action	Abandonment Exemption Granted
Latest Action Date	07/31/26
STB Docket No.	AB_290_424_X
Railroad Name:	Norfolk Southern Railway
County (ies)	Polk
Initial Effective Date *	
Trail Use Status	Open
Consummation or Sale Date **	
Initial Abandonment Filing Date	04/14/26
Action	Environmental Materials
Filed By	Norfolk Southern Railway Company

Mile Post	Approximately 340.8 to 353.0
Latest Action	PROVIDED A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
Latest Action Date	6/12/26

Railroad Abandonment Crossing Data Table

Railroad	FRA #	RR Milepost	State Hwy # (If applicable)	City/County Street	City/County
NS	969185N	343.59		Bike Path	City of Des Moines
NS	969186V	344.10		Bike Path	City of Des Moines
NS	377223J	344.38		N. Valley Drive	City of Des Moines
NS	377221V	344.82		W. Grand Avenue	City of Des Moines
NS	969187C	344.84		Walnut Creek Trail	City of Des Moines
NS	969188J	345.07		Trail	City of West Des Moines
NS	377220N	345.14	IA-28	63rd Street	IA DOT
NS	377219U	345.17		1st Street / 63rd Street	City of West Des Moines
NS	377218M	345.20		Hoak Road	City of West Des Moines
NS	377216Y	345.94		Center Street	City of West Des Mones
NS	377215S	346.05		I-235	Iowa DOT
NS	377213D	346.34		73rd Street	City of Windsor Heights

NS	377212W	346.44		Buffalo Road	City of Clive
NS	969191S	346.72		Clive Greenbelt Trail	City of Clive
NS	377207A	347.44		NW 86th Street	City of Urbandale
NS	377228T	8.48		Swanson Blvd.	City of Urbandale
NS	377206T	347.69		Swanson Blvd.	City of Urbandale
NS	377205L	348.29		Hickman Road	City of Urbandale
NS	916812N	349.48		NW 100th Street	City of Urbandale
NS	377204E	349.57		Douglas Avenue	City of Urbandale
NS	917605X	350.37		Aurora Avenue	City of Urbandale
NS	377203X	350.79		Meredith Drive	City of Urbandale
NS	377202R	351.2	I-35 / I-80	I-35 / I-80	IA DOT
NS	377201J	351.3	IA 141	IA 141	IA DOT
NS	377199K	351.95		SE 37th Street	City of Grimes

Current Action Iowa Interstate Railroad

STB Docket No.	AB_414_9_X
Railroad Name:	Iowa Interstate Railroad

County (ies)	Polk
Initial Effective Date *	02/26/2027
Trail Use Status	Open Until 07/31/27
Consummation or Sale Date **	
Initial Abandonment Filing Date	04/14/26
Action	Abandonment Exemption Granted to End Lease
Filed By	Iowa Interstate Railroad
Mile Post	Approximately 340.8 to 353.0
Latest Action	Decision Granted Abandonment Exemption and Trail Negotiations
Latest Action Date	7/31/26
STB Docket No.	AB_414_9_X
Railroad Name:	Iowa Interstate Railroad
County (ies)	Polk
Initial Effective Date *	
Trail Use Status	Open
Consummation or Sale Date **	
Initial Abandonment Filing Date	04/14/26
Action	Environmental Materials
Filed By	Norfolk Southern Railway Company
Mile Post	Approximately 340.8 to 353.0
Latest Action	PROVIDED A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
Latest Action Date	6/12/26

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Railroad	FRA #	RR Milepost	State Hwy # (If applicable)	City/County Street	City/County
NS	969185N	343.59		Bike Path	City of Des Moines
NS	969186V	344.10		Bike Path	City of Des Moines
NS	377223J	344.38		N. Valley Drive	City of Des Moines
NS	377221V	344.82		W. Grand Avenue	City of Des Moines
NS	969187C	344.84		Walnut Creek Trail	City of Des Moines
NS	969188J	345.07		Trail	City of West Des Moines
NS	377220N	345.14	IA-28	63rd Street	IA DOT
NS	377219U	345.17		1st Street / 63rd Street	City of West Des Moines
NS	377218M	345.20		Hoak Road	City of West Des Moines
NS	377216Y	345.94		Center Street	City of West Des Mones
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NS	377213D	346.34		73rd Street	City of Windsor Heights
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NS	969191S	346.72		Clive Greenbelt Trail	City of Clive

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NS	377206T	347.69		Swanson Blvd.	City of Urbandale
NS	377205L	348.29		Hickman Road	City of Urbandale
NS	916812N	349.48		NW 100th Street	City of Urbandale
NS	377204E	349.57		Douglas Avenue	City of Urbandale
NS	917605X	350.37		Aurora Avenue	City of Urbandale
NS	377203X	350.79		Meredith Drive	City of Urbandale
NS	377202R	351.2	I-35 / I-80	I-35 / I-80	IA DOT
NS	377201J	351.3	IA 141	IA 141	IA DOT
NS	377199K	351.95		SE 37th Street	City of Grimes

Current Action Iowa Traction Railway Company

STB Docket No.	AB_1269_1_X
Railroad Name:	Iowa Traction Railway Company
County (ies)	Cerro Gordo
Initial Effective Date *	
Trail Use Status	Open

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Consummation or Sale Date **	
Initial Abandonment Filing Date	10/28/19
Action	Environmental Materials
Filed By	Iowa Traction Railway Company
Mile Post	Including MP 155.5, approximately 100 yards south of Elm Dr. to MP 152.5, approximately 600 yards north of County HWY B-20.
Latest Action	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.
Latest Action Date	4/6/2020

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