

FLETCHER & SIPPEL LLC

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

29 North Wacker Drive
Suite 800
Chicago, Illinois 60606-3208

BRADON J. SMITH
(312) 252-1516
bsmith@fletcher-sippel.com

300574

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
April 28, 2020
Part of
Public Record

Phone: (312) 252-1500
Fax: (312) 252-2400
www.fletcher-sippel.com

April 28, 2020

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Ms. Cynthia T. Brown
Chief, Section of Administration
Office of Proceedings
Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street S.W., Room 1034
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Re: **Docket No. FD 36332**
National Railroad Passenger Corporation — Petition
For Proceedings Under 49 U.S.C. § 24903(c)(2)

EXPEDITED CONSIDERATION REQUESTED

Dear Ms. Brown:

The National Railroad Passenger Corporation (“Amtrak”), and the Commuter Rail Division of the Regional Transportation Authority and the Northeast Illinois Regional Commuter Railroad Corporation (collectively “Metra”) (together, the “Parties”), jointly request modification of the procedural schedule in this proceeding adopted by decision served December 5, 2019 and modified by decision dated March 17, 2020. The Parties seek to extend the due date for opening submissions by 20 days, from April 30, 2020 to May 20, 2020. The due date for replies would then be moved to June 24, 2020, a shortening of the original 45 day reply period to 35 days.

The Parties request this brief extension for two reasons. First, although the Parties have been working diligently, work conditions are obviously not ideal due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The Parties believe that having an additional 20 days will allow them to provide better guidance to the Board to resolve the issues presented in this matter. Second, the Parties have been engaged in settlement discussion—and in fact have resolved two of the outstanding issues to be reflected in a shortly-forthcoming stipulation—which have been made more difficult by the present circumstances. The Parties are also addressing a third issue and believe that an additional 20 days may allow them to resolve or narrow the issues for the Board to decide.

FLETCHER & SIPPEL LLC

Ms. Cynthia T Brown
April 28, 2020
Page 2

Counsel for Amtrak has authorized this filing on its behalf. Given the circumstances, and for the reasons set forth above, good cause exists for modification of the procedural schedule in this matter and waiver of 49 C.F.R. § 1104.7 (governing the time to request an extension). Due to the forthcoming deadlines, the Parties seek expedited consideration of this request.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bradon J. Smith". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bradon J. Smith
Attorney for Metra

cc: Neil K. Gilman
Parties of Record