

**BEFORE THE
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD**

STB Ex Parte No. 777

**JOINT PETITION FOR RULEMAKING TO CONSIDER AMENDMENTS TO
REGULATIONS GOVERNING INTERIM USE OF RIGHTS-OF-WAY AS TRAILS
(49 C.F.R. PART 1152)**

EXPEDITED REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

On December 20, 2024, the U.S. Department of Interior and the U.S. Department of Justice (“Government”) filed a petition for rulemaking to amend the Surface Transportation Board’s (“STB” or “Board”) rules regarding the process governing interim use of railroad rights-of-way as trails (“petition”). Under Board rules, replies to the petition would be due January 9, 2025. Given the pre-holiday filing of the petition and intervening holidays, the Association of American Railroads (“AAR”), pursuant to 49 C.F.R. § 1104.7, requests an extension of 20 days to file a response to the petition. Additionally, AAR’s members overwhelmingly own the majority of the nation’s rail trackage and would therefore be impacted by the petition’s proposed changes to the process governing abandonments and the railbanking procedures at the Board. AAR requests this time to provide an appropriate reply to the petition.

Counsel for AAR conferred with counsel for the Government, and the Government has consented to the requested extension. AAR appreciates the Board's expedited consideration of this request.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'KD' or similar initials, with a stylized flourish.

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