



Fond du Lac County

PLANNING/PARKS DEPARTMENT

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160 South Macy Street, Fond du Lac, WI 54935

April 8, 2019

Ms. Cynthia T. Brown

Chief, Section of Administration Office of Proceedings Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW Washington, DC 20423

RE: Docket EP 753 – Petition for Rulemaking

Dear Ms. Brown,

These comments, filed on behalf of Fond du Lac County, Wisconsin are in support of a petition by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy (RTC) for the Surface Transportation Board (STB) to establish a one-year period for any initial interim trail use negotiating period and codify the STB's authority to grant extensions of the negotiating period for good cause shown.

Fond du Lac County has extensive experience with the purchase, development and management of multiple purpose recreation trails on abandoned railroad corridors. We have done trails by railbanking and without railbanking and the latter is extremely time intensive when negotiating for the purchase of abandoned railroad corridors. Corridors acquired with railbanking can often take an extended period to secure for public use. Our county presently hosts three state trails and three locally owned and operated multiple purpose recreation trails. Our trails attract visitors to our county. Our area medical providers encourage their patients to adopt healthy lifestyles by using our trails. Frequently, local civic groups use our trails for a wide range of community events.

Based on our direct experience with railbanking negotiations before the STB, we urge the Board to adopt RTC's proposed rule in Docket No. EP 753.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sam Tobias

Fond du Lac County Planning & Parks Director

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