

EP-753

Rail Banking

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As a board member of the Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition I understand that research shows that railbanking negotiations usually require more than 180 days to complete due to regulatory, funding or other legitimate reasons. Codifying the STB's authority to grant these extensions for "good cause" would match the generally accepted standard governing extension requests, including in the context of railbanking orders.

This proposal would make railbanking as simple and straightforward as possible for trail managers, railroads and the STB, helping to ensure the preservation of rail corridors and promoting the development of rail-trails—all while furthering the statutory language, goals, and articulated public policy of the railbanking law.

Thanks!