

Friends of Stevens Creek Trail

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RE: Docket EP 753 – Petition for Rulemaking
Ms. Cynthia T. Brown Chief
Section of Administration
Office of Proceedings Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW Washington, DC 20423

Dear Ms. Brown,

These comments, filed on behalf of the Friends of Stevens Creek Trail, 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.

Railbanked trails are important in our region as well as nation-wide. They connect numerous communities for healthy recreation and motor vehicle alternatives. It takes time to negotiate them, often more than a few months, for political, financial, and other reasons. It can be complicated. One year is a far more realistic and practical initial negotiating period. We urge the Board to adopt RTC's proposed rule in Docket No. EP 753. Thank you for your consideration.

Aaron Grossman, Executive Director
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