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Proposed Rule Threatens Railbanking

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East Coast Greenway Alliance

To: The Surface Transportation Board

The East Coast Greenway Alliance strongly supports the process of railbanking to preserve rail corridors for future use as greenways & trails. The restrictions to railbanking negotiations proposed by the Surface Transportation Board (STB) (Docket ID: EP-749-1) could impede the ability to preserve rail corridors for future trail development.

This federal statute has allowed local trail groups from across the country to convert former railways into thriving rail-trails that boost local economies and create healthier, more vibrant communities.

Based in Durham, NC, the East Coast Greenway Alliance is the non-profit organization spearheading the development of a safe and accessible 3,000-mile greenway from Maine to Florida through cities and towns along the East Coast. Railbanking has been a useful tool in development of the East Coast Greenway. Negotiations can take years to complete and many successful negotiations have taken longer than the maximum time period now proposed by the STB.

We ask that this proposal be rejected and that we work together to achieve our common goals of increasing safety, improving multimodal transportation, and increasing quality of life.

Sincerely,
Niles Barnes
Deputy Director
East Coast Greenway Alliance

