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July 3, 2018

VIA E-FILING

Cynthia Brown
Chief, Section of Administration
Office of Proceedings
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

Re: Docket No. FD 36178, Metropolitan Council - Petition for Declaratory Order

Dear Ms. Brown:

Consistent with the Board's decision in this docket that was served May 22, 2018, both the Metropolitan Council ("Council") and the Twin Cities & Western Railroad Company ("TCWR") filed their reply comments on June 27, 2018. In reviewing these submissions, it appears that it may be helpful to the Board to have the witnesses available to explain any differing views of facts that are of direct relevance to the issues before the Board. If the Board finds it helpful to the development of the record, the Council and TCWR suggest that the Board convene a technical conference in which representatives of the Board's staff would be able to ask questions of the witnesses to clarify any issues staff may have with the various verified statements.

Due to the Council's need for an expeditious decision in this matter and to facilitate that process, the Council and TCWR could make their witnesses available to Board staff at the Board's offices in Washington, D.C. While counsel for both sides would be present, the process would not involve any presentations by counsel, cross-examination or oral argument, but rather would be restricted to witnesses answering any factual questions Board staff might have.

If this suggestion would be helpful to the Board, the Council and TCWR suggest that the technical conference be scheduled as soon as possible. We suggest that the Board consider setting such a conference on Friday, July 13, 2018.



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With counsel for TCWR's consent, I am authorized to file this letter on behalf of the Council and TCWR.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'E. Greenberg', is written over the printed name.

Edward D. Greenberg
Attorney for Metropolitan Council

cc: Parties of Record