

November 30, 2018

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October 31, 2018
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Dear Ms. Brown,

As the co-founder of the Wasson Way Trail in Cincinnati I am writing in opposition to the proposed rule change that sets a three year time period before sales of the right-of-way land to adjacent property owners. In our case the negotiations took almost 5 years even though we started contacting the railroad as soon as they stopped running trains on the track. Even the process of abandoning the right-of-way takes several years from start to finish. Between formal abandonment, appraisals, negotiations, surveys and closing the whole process can easily take 6 years.

My biggest concerns is the valuable right-of-ways that will be lost forever. As one of the largest cities in the nation in the 1880's, Cincinnati had all these railroad right-of-ways. If we still had these right-of-ways today there is no question that the City would have a wonderful network of trails and light rail. All these destroyed right-of-ways are in the most populated areas of our City, and therefore are the most important to protect.

Have you considered a compromise? Maybe allow temporary easements for the property. That way the underlying right-of-way would be preserved but adjacent property owners could use the property in the meantime.

Thanks for your consideration.

Jay Andress
Wasson Way

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