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Ms. Cynthia T. Brown
Chief, Section of Administration
Office of Proceedings
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

Re: Docket EP 753 – Petition for Rulemaking

Dear Ms. Brown:

I am writing 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 negotiation period and codify the STB's authority to grant extensions of the negotiation period for good cause shown.

I am a volunteer working on a potential corridor acquisition in Florida. Based on the complexity of the project, the need to work with a myriad of stakeholders and our limited resources, I am doubtful that we will be able to meet the current 180-day maximum time-frame established by the STB. The RTC petition would streamline the process and reduce the time and substantial expense that may be required to prepare and submit extension requests. It would also significantly decrease the STB's workload and contribute to administrative efficiency.

I urge the Board to adopt RTC's proposed rule in Docket No. EP 753.

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