



**PLANNING
DEPARTMENT**

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US Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

Re: Docket No. FD 36326
BROOKFIELD ASSET MANAGEMENT, INC. AND DJP XX, LLC –
CONTROL EXEMPTION – GENESEE & WYOMING, INC., ET AL.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The purpose of this letter is to express that the US Surface Transportation Board (STB) require that the new owners of the Providence & Worcester (P&W) Railroad work with the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor and communities along the rail route in support of the Blackstone River Valley Greenway.

The Blackstone River Valley Greenway (Greenway) was conceived as a 48-mile multi-use path along the Blackstone River connecting Worcester, Massachusetts and Providence, Rhode Island. The Greenway was envisioned as a recreational and cultural resources celebrating the history and culture of the Blackstone Valley.

The Greenway is a work in progress, with only 50% of the route complete. The remaining sections to be completed are within the towns of Millbury, Sutton, Grafton, Northbridge, and Uxbridge. Within these towns, environmental hurdles represent a challenge for the Greenway's completion. By working with the P&W, and the new owners, in strategic locations, it is possible to overcome these challenges and help complete the Greenway.

The Town of Grafton is working with neighboring towns and the Blackstone Heritage Corridor to finalize plans for the construction of the Greenway. The Greenway will not only tie together communities from Worcester to Providence, but it will fulfill the goals associated with the Blackstone Valley's designation as a National Park.

The Town requests the STB include as a requirement of Brookfield's and DJP's acquisition of control of Genesee & Wyoming's Providence & Worcester Railroad, that the new owners work cooperatively with the Town of Grafton, communities served by the Greenway, the Blackstone Heritage Corridor, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and the Department of the Interior to accommodate the completion Blackstone River Valley Greenway.

Sincerely

Joseph Laydon
Town Planner

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