



Mitt Romney
Governor

Kerry Healey
Lieutenant Governor

Daniel A. Grabauskas
Secretary of Transportation

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Transportation and Construction
Ten Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116-3969

May 19, 2004



Hon. Vernon A. Williams, Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, NW
Washington, DC 20423-00001

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Office of Proceedings

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Public Record

Re: STB Docket No. AB 254 (Sub-No. 7X)
Providence and Worcester Railroad Company –
Abandonment Exemption – for Worcester County, MA
and Windham County, CT.

Dear Secretary Williams:

By decision served December 2, 2003, in the above captioned proceeding the Board issued a NITU authorizing the Commonwealth of Massachusetts by and through its Executive Office of Transportation and Construction (“EOTC”) to enter into negotiations with the Providence and Worcester Railroad Company (“P&W”) for trail use of that portion of the involved right-of-way between milepost 0.18 in Webster and milepost 1.4± in Dudley, and between milepost 4.8± in Dudley, and milepost 10.98 in Southbridge, MA under the National Trails System Act, 16 U.S.P. 1247 (d).

Although EOTC has been diligent in compiling requisite information essential to completion of the authorized negotiations it appears that an extension will be necessary to complete the process. Accordingly, consistent with the Board’s response in similar

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circumstances, EOTC respectfully requests an additional six months within which to complete negotiations. The P&W has been contacted concerning this request and EOTC believes that it will concur in this request.

The Board's assistance in this matter will be very much appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Maeve Valley Bartlett".

Maeve Valley Bartlett
Manager of Rail
Executive Office of
Transportation & Construction

cc: P&W Railroad