

April 8, 2019

Ozark Greenways, Inc.
PO Box 50733
Springfield, MO 65805

RE: Docket EP 753 – Petition for Rulemaking
Ms. Cynthia T. Brown
Chief, Section of Administration
Office of Proceedings
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

247435

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
April 8, 2019
Part of
Public Record

Dear Ms. Brown,

These comments, filed on behalf of Ozark Greenways, Inc. are 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 negotiating period and codify the STB's authority to grant extensions of the negotiating period for good cause shown.

Ozark Greenways' Frisco Highline Trail (FHT) connects Springfield, MO to Bolivar, MO, with four other communities in between. The FHT attracts folks from all over the world to walk, run, and bike, among other things, as a form of recreation or for transportation. The FHT provides these communities with economic vitality as well. A more efficient negotiating period would not only benefit the potential rail trails but will also benefit the communities surrounding them.

Based on our direct experience with railbanking negotiations before the STB, we urge the Board to adopt RTC's proposed rule in Docket No. EP 753.

Thank you for your consideration,

John Montgomery
Frisco Highline Trail Manager
Ozark Greenways