

Red Line Greenway
P.O. Box 602656
Cleveland, OH 44102

April 10, 2019

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

Dear Ms. Brown,

These comments, filed on behalf of the Red Line Greenway in Cleveland, Ohio 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.

The Red Line Greenway will begin construction this summer of a \$7 million 2.3 mile world-class linear park and rail-with-trail that is the culmination of 42 years of volunteer beautification and five years of negotiating with the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority (RTA). Many rail banking efforts are volunteer driven processes that require an amazing number of vitally important meetings with rail authorities. It seemed like every meeting we had with RTA was critical. If we had to meet an artificial deadline I highly doubt we would have the funding or project we do today. The now proven results of rail trails nationwide more than support Rails-to-Trails petition and we are proud to support their effort today.

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,

Lennie Stover

Founder, Red Line Greenway and Keep our Greenway Green

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