



BLACKSTONE VALLEY

TOURISM COUNCIL

241314

July 11, 2016

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August 19, 2016
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Public Record

Chairman Daniel R. Elliott III
Vice Chairman Deb Miller
Member Ann D. Begeman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street S.W.
Washington, DC 20423

RE: Finance Docket #36043
Boston Surface Railroad, Inc.
Petition for Partial Exemption From 49 U.S.C. Subtitle IV

Dear Chairman Elliott, Vice Chairman Miller and Ms. Begeman:

The Blackstone Valley Tourism Council is pleased to support the application made by the Boston Surface Railroad Company, Inc. (BRSC) to provide passenger rail commuter service on an existing route between Worcester, MA and Providence, RI.

As the state designated regional tourism development organization operating within the proposed BRSC service area, we feel the plans will provide a positive economic development benefit for the Blackstone River Valley, including a planned stop at the Woonsocket, RI Depot.

Our region, including the City of Woonsocket, are now part of the new Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park, which was enacted into Federal Law in December 2014, as the nation's 402nd National Park.

In particular, the Woonsocket Depot site will help to benefit the city's small businesses and major employers, plus orient new customers using the service to the many heritage, cultural and recreational activities our new National Park.

We strongly encourage the Board to assert its jurisdiction and approve BRSC's petition and all the benefits passenger rail will offer our communities.

Sincerely,

Robert Billington, Ed.D

cc: Vincent J. Bono, Boston Surface Railroad Company via e-mail, USPS
Parties of record