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October 17, 2008

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Hon. Anne K. Quinlan
Acting Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

Dear Secretary Quinlan:

This refers to STB Docket No. AB-33 (Sub-No. 253X), Union Pacific Railroad Company--Abandonment Exemption--in Colorado and Wharton Counties, TX and to the Board's Decision, served September 15, 2008, extending the NITU negotiating period to October 31, 2008.

Hurricane Ike which devastated the Galveston and Houston areas the middle of last month proved to be extremely disruptive for the Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County, TX ("METRO") rendering it impossible for METRO to provide its regularly scheduled transit service for several weeks.

While concluding the interim trail/rail banking agreement with the Union Pacific Railroad Company ("UP") is important to METRO, upper management has been obliged to concentrate exclusively on operational issues during the past month. METRO, accordingly, respectfully requests a further extension of the negotiating period to December 31, 2008.

I am authorized to state that UP concurs in the extension request.

I certify that I have served a copy of this letter upon UP by e-mailing a copy to its counsel.

Sincerely yours,



Fritz R. Kahn

cc: Mack H. Shumate Jr., Esq.
Ms. Alva Trevino
Cassie B. Stinson, Esq.