



FORB

Friends of the Rail Bridge

Bridging community through history, education, and recreation

February 28, 2021

Mr. Rob McCaskey
U.S. Coast Guard-dwb
1222 Spruce Street
Suite 2.102D
St. Louis MO 63103-2832

RE: Friends of the Rail Bridge (FORB) Time Extension Modification

Dear Mr. McCaskey,

We are writing to update the U.S. Coast Guard regarding our previously requested time extension. In that request, we provided both an update on our activities and information on potential public private partners.

First, we are pleased to inform the U.S. Coast Guard that several partners have already indicated they will establish the public private partnership with FORB, as specified in the Programmatic Agreement. These include but are not limited to the Northern Plains Heritage Area; the NDSU Center for Heritage Renewal; and the NDSU School of Design, Architecture and Art.

Based on this and other information FORB would like to modify our current time extension request. FORB would like to request a 15-day extension, rather than a 30-day extension, to the original timeline to allow these public private partners to finalize agreements with FORB and to allow additional potential public private partners sufficient time to reach a final decision.

This revised request minimizes impediments to the overall project schedule; it encourages more public awareness and input to the project and project alternatives; it allows potential public private partners to fully understand the complex body of project studies and other work completed to date; it allows potential public private partners to fully understand the implications of a partnership under this agreement; it improves compliance with the intent and requirement of the applicable federal permitting and preservation regulations; and it forwards a careful public interest review and equitable decisions to allow reasonable use of private property and historic structures, while offsetting the authorized impacts to the waters of the US.

FORB would also request that the U. S. Coast Guard recognize and accommodate other potential partner decisions that are currently pending or scheduled within the next 30 days.



FORB

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FORB is committed to ensure this critical project moves forward in compliance with all applicable regulatory requirements, project schedules, and public input processes.

Sincerely,



Mark Zimmerman

President
Friends of the Rail Bridge

cc:

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