

CITY OF
GAINESVILLE

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Ward Four

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Ward Five

January 13, 2026

The Honorable Patrick J. Fuchs
Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423
Subject: Support for Norfolk Southern & Union Pacific Merger



Dear Chairman Fuchs:

As a member of the Gainesville City Council, I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed merger between Norfolk Southern and Union Pacific.

Freight rail is a cornerstone of our state's economy, safely moving the goods that power our industries, support our farmers and connect our communities to markets across the nation and the world. Norfolk Southern has long been an essential transportation partner for our state.

Here in Hall County, where we have the Norfolk Southern inland port on the Blue Ridge Connector, I know the American freight rail network is not only critical to our economic growth. It is also one of the most sustainable modes of transportation. This is critical in reducing highway congestion and emissions.

Gainesville is a railroad community, and we know that this proposed merger between two reliable industry partners has the potential to unleash a tidal wave of economic growth. Our city will be a critical part streamlining how goods are moved across the nation.

The proposed merger offers a unique opportunity to strengthen this network and deliver tangible benefits for shippers, consumers and communities, including:

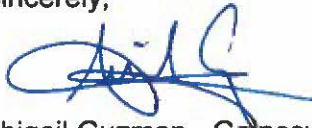
- **Improved Service Reliability:** More direct routes and greater operational flexibility will help prevent service disruptions and improve schedule dependability.
- **Reduced Transit Times:** Eliminating certain interchanges will speed the movement of goods, helping our businesses reach customers faster and more competitively.
- **Increased Investment:** The transcontinental railroad will be better positioned to invest in modern infrastructure, advanced technology and enhanced safety systems.
- **Expanded Reach:** The broader geographic footprint will open new markets for our state's products and strengthen supply chain resilience.

This merger is about more than just railroads – it's about securing transportation's future in our state.

I respectfully urge the Surface Transportation Board to give full and favorable consideration to this proposal, recognizing the benefits it will bring to our state and the national economy.

Honorable Patrick J. Fuchs
January 13, 2026
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Abigail Guzman', with a stylized, cursive script.

Abigail Guzman - Gainesville, GA City Council

cc: Member Schultz
Member Hedlund