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John Bel Edwards, Governor
Shawn D. Wilson, Ph.D., Secretary
Christopher P. Knotts, Chief Engineer

December 14, 2021

Joshua Wayland, Surface Transportation Board, c/o VHB
Attention: Environmental Filing, Docket No. FD 36500
940 Main Campus Dr., Suite 500
Raleigh, NC 27606

Dear Mr. Wayland,

The Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) is in receipt of your letter providing notice of the Surface Transportation Board's intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed acquisition of Kansas City Southern (KCS) by Canadian Pacific. While the Highway/Rail Safety Unit at DOTD looks forward to working with Canadian Pacific and welcoming them into Louisiana, we do have some concerns.

Louisiana is one of the few states that hosts six Class 1 railroads and KCS is one of the more proactive and enthusiastic railroad safety partners. Their upper management appear to provide support and empowerment to Chris Ashley (Signal Project Engineer) and Danny Lites (Public Safety Director). This is evident by their participation in Operation Lifesaver, AREMA, and NCUTCD. This is also shown by how they partnered with DOTD to apply for and win two competitive FRA Grants, voluntarily providing financial commitments (even up to 50%). Other railroads have shown interest in pursuing a grant, but few had flexibility and support at the front line level to be successful.

When it comes to project timelines and managing the Section 130 program for the state, there is some uncertainty because DOTD relies on the railroads to develop the plans and estimates. KCS is one of our more responsive railroads and has been flexible enough to prioritize some projects allowing us to initiate projects sooner than planned if needed to use all of our funding for the year. They were especially helpful when FHWA unexpectedly changed their policy to require matching funds for railroad safety project several years ago. Louisiana laws generally do not allow DOTD to spend state transportation funds on non-state routes and our parishes (counties) and local towns do not have extra funding to provide the match. Therefore, we relied on railroads to provide the matching funds.

As mentioned above, Chris and Danny provide excellent customer service, not just to the State, but also the local entities and general public. There is an additional level of effectiveness by having them in Louisiana. Meetings with local entities can be scheduled around a car trip rather than an airline flight. They are able to participate in person with Operation Lifesaver events.

One of the tools we use in improving railroad safety is crossing consolidation. When there are several crossings very close to each other with good connectivity between them, we look to close one of the crossings and make sure the remaining ones have adequate warning for the additional

traffic. As you can imagine, this is not always popular and can require negotiation with the local entity (city, town, or parish/county). Sometimes this can require connector roads, sidewalks, or other infrastructure to mitigate the closed crossing and it may not be practical for DOTD or the local entity to design and construct them. On many more than just a few occasions, KCS has stepped up and helped by providing these services. While this was not uncommon with other Class 1 railroads even 10 years ago, many railroads have shied away from this practice.

While Louisiana is a relatively small state, DOTD tries to be proactive in Highway/Rail Safety. We look forward to working with Canadian Pacific if the merger is successful and, while we realize it may not be possible, we hope CP is able to maintain some of the flexibility and proactive nature KCS currently exercises in Highway/Rail Safety.

In the interest of aiding future coordination associated with the acquisition, DOTD is offering the contact information for our rail staff below:

Office of Engineering:

Jared Ray
Railroad Construction Program Manager
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(225) 379-1038 office

Bill Shrewsberry
Highway/Rail Safety Engineer
William.Shrewsberry@la.gov
(225) 379-1543

Shawn Luke
Assistant Highway/Rail Safety Engineer
Shawn.Luke@la.gov
(225) 379-1385

Office of Multimodal Commerce:

J. Dean Goodell
Freight & Passenger Rail Program Director
Dean.Goodell@la.gov
(225) 379-3031

The above staff may be reached by phone, email, or mail. The postal address for all is as follows:

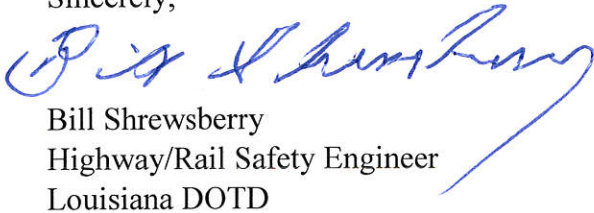
Louisiana DOTD, P.O. Box 94245, Baton Rouge, LA 70804.

If sending information by courier, please use the street address:

1201 Capitol Access Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70802.

The Department looks forward to working with the Board and the railroads on this and future endeavors.

Sincerely,



Bill Shrewsberry
Highway/Rail Safety Engineer
Louisiana DOTD

pc: Noel Ardoin (via email)
Robert Iseman (via email)
Dean Goodell (via email)
Jared Ray (via email)
Shawn Luke (via email)