



CITY OF HOUSTON

Sylvester Turner

Mayor

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December 14, 2021

Ms. Danielle Gosselin, Acting Director
Office of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
Washington, DC 20423

Re: Docket No. FD 36500, Canadian Pacific Railway Limited, et al.—Control of—
Kansas City Southern, et al.; Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact
Statement

Dear Ms. Gosselin:

Thank you for notifying the City of Houston of the Canadian Pacific Railway's application to acquire Kansas City Southern and the Surface Transportation Board's intention to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). On behalf of the City of Houston, please accept these comments on the scope of the underlying environmental analysis.

Nicknamed "where seventeen railroads meet the sea", the City of Houston is among the busiest centers of freight rail traffic in the country. Historically, the greatest impacts of that traffic have been borne by our underserved populations. We must take every possible step to ensure these, and any future impacts are properly mitigated. I am particularly concerned about the following potential impacts:

Grade Crossings: Throughout Houston, busy rail lines bisect communities and cross important thoroughfares at grade level. Congestion throughout the rail network leads trains to block these crossings for hours on end, disrupting residents' lives, degrading emergency response times, and encouraging unsafe crossing behavior. The EIS must quantify any increase in delay incurred at the City's grade crossings and seek comprehensive mitigation.

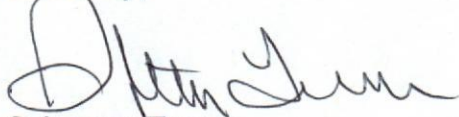
Air, Water and Soil Contamination: The recent discovery of a cancer cluster adjacent to the Englewood Yard is part of a long history of environmental impacts felt by communities at the railroad's edge. The EIS must evaluate any direct or cumulative impacts to the City's air, water, and soil resulting from increased rail traffic, and seek comprehensive mitigation.

Page 2
December 13, 2021
Ms. Danielle Gosselin

Noise: Diesel engines, squeaky wheels, bells, and horns produce noise that degrade our residents' quality of life. The EIS must quantify any increase in noise resulting from increased rail traffic and seek comprehensive mitigation.

If you require any further information or details regarding these items, please contact David Fields at (832) 393-6573 or david.fields@houstontx.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sylvester Turner", written over the printed name.

Sylvester Turner
Mayor

ST: MWB/am

cc: David Fields, Chief Transportation Planner