

From: no-reply@vhb.com
To: [EIS Contact](#)
Subject: CP-KCS EIS Public Scoping Period - Website Contact
Date: Friday, December 17, 2021 10:31:07 AM

EI-31548

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contact-message : Significant increases in train traffic can lead to several operational concerns with the transportation system. The EIS should examine the ability of the existing rail network and proposed capital improvements to facilitate efficient movement of train traffic. The analysis should determine whether the proposed network has the ability to move the projected level of train traffic without significant impacts to both railroad and roadway traffic.

Additionally, the analysis should identify an average or typical train length to determine whether the proposed railroad infrastructure has the ability to move the projected volume of train traffic without occupying rail-highway grade crossings for excessive amounts of time for train meets, switching or other operational issues. The analysis should identify any locations where rail-highway grade crossings may be occupied for excessive amounts of time (such as crossings near existing or proposed sidings, interchanges and yards) and mitigate appropriately. The analysis should also ensure that railroad track, bridges, culverts and other structures are sufficient to handle the proposed level of train traffic and rail tonnage. The EIS should also analyze any impacts of significant increases in train traffic on existing highway-rail grade crossings, and work with appropriate local authorities to determine where additional mitigations to existing or new warning devices may be necessary for the level of train traffic and speed that is projected. The EIS should also address how to handle impacts that may fall outside of the STB's regulations for assessing environmental impacts. There may be rail line segments that do not meet the official threshold for assessment that may still experience some of the previously described impacts resulting from increased traffic generated by the merger. The EIS should provide a process for considering significant impacts that fall outside of the assessment thresholds. For example, the Canadian Pacific River Subdivision is currently reported to handle 11.9 trains per day, and a projected increase of 6.2 trains per day. While this increase may fall outside of the STB's assessment threshold, this increase could possibly create impacts on the largely single track subdivision.

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