

January 2, 2022

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

Re: Canadian Pacific/Kansas City Southern Merger Proposal; FD 36500; EIS Scoping

Dear Mr. Wayland:

The Downtown Davenport Partnership is represented by a diverse network of property owners, businesses, non-profits, and civic leaders dedicated to fostering a vibrant downtown. The merger between Canadian Pacific and Kansas City Southern offers an opportunity to bring increased commerce, economic development, and resources to our Quad Cities region.

While the proposed merger will help expand our regional economy, there are safety and accessibility concerns regarding the substantial increase in freight traffic, particularly along the downtown Davenport Mississippi Riverfront. The rail corridor runs directly through our key downtown amenities and parks, impacting the daily health and safety for downtown businesses, workers, residents, and visitors.

Many of our core riverfront cultural amenities such as Modern Woodmen Park, LeClaire and Centennial Parks, and the Freight House Market may become substantially more inaccessible and less safe with an increase in rail traffic. With one or few access point to many of these properties, increased rail traffic may cause severe disruptions in business operations, prevent timely access of emergency services, and access to critical infrastructure. Amenities and businesses bifurcated by the train tracks will be less accessible while creating a potential health and safety hazard without further capital improvements.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide comment on the scoping of the draft EIS. We look forward to working with the Surface Transportation Board, State of Iowa, Canadian Pacific, and Kansas City Southern on the opportunities presented by this merger and to mitigate the health and safety impact to residents, businesses, critical infrastructure, and cultural amenities due to increased rail traffic.

If you would like to discuss any of these concerns further, please contact DDP at 563.322.1706.

Sincerely,  
Kyle Carter  
Executive Director, DDP