



December 31, 2021

Joshua Wayland
Office of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board, c/o VHB
940 Main Campus Drive, Suite 500
Raleigh, NC 27606

Subject: FD 36500, Canadian Pacific Railway/ Kansas City Southern EIS

Dear Mr. Wayland

As the Mayor of the City of Liberty, Missouri, I am writing this letter to express our comments and concerns with the proposed Canadian Pacific acquisition of Kansas City Southern. The City of Liberty recognizes the importance rail traffic has on the vitality of our country's economic well-being. However, the proposed increase of 14.4 trains through our community daily, above the current average of 3.83, will negatively impact our community if consideration is not given to the safety, environmental and quality of life ramifications of this acquisition.

There are several neighborhoods that are adjacent to this line, with many homes in close proximity to the line and the at-grade crossing. With the increased train traffic and no barriers between the tracks and these residential areas, there will be an increased risk of pedestrian/train accidents.

Similarly, with more trains comes increased risk of derailments, hazardous spills and other events that could put a strain on emergency response capabilities and have negative effects on the environment, neighborhoods, traffic flow and environment

The at-grade crossing on this line, 37541M located at Old Birmingham Road, just south of Holt Drive, bisects a well-travelled collector street that connects to a 4-lane east-west collector, a 4-lane State highway and another busy collector street. The 376 percent increase in train traffic through this location will impede traffic flow and public safety access in the southern portion of Liberty. We are also concerned that there will be an increased risk of automobile / train accidents when the motorists become impatient or believe the crossing arms are malfunctioning.

Beyond the safety concerns, there also are concerns related to the environmental impacts this acquisition will have on our residents and community. There are several homes that are less than 220 feet from the at-grade crossing with hundreds more within range of the sound of horns and even more who live in neighborhoods that are adjacent to these tracks. With less than 4 trains per day, residents' lives are already affected by the sounding of horns, the vibration of trains rumbling through at 60 miles per, trains idling well into the night and resulting emissions. With even more trains flowing through our community each day, this will negatively impact the environment and our residents and businesses along the entire corridor through Liberty.

Mr. Joshua Wayland
December 30, 2021
Page 2

To address the safety concerns outlined above and reduce the impact of the projected 376 percent increase in train traffic on residential life near the crossing and along the corridor, we request that EIS consider the following:

- replacement of the at-grade crossing with a new crossing with grade separation
- installation of barriers along residential areas that border the tracks between South Liberty Parkway and the intersection of B and H highways to increase safety measures and mitigate noise
- lowering the speed of trains along residential areas
- implementing reasonable hours of operation and idling times that minimize disruption between 9 p.m. and 7 a.m.

We ask that the proposal be amended to include mitigation of the effects that safety, environmental and quality of life impact the proposed acquisition would have on the Liberty community.

Thank you for the consideration of the issues and concerns outlined above.

Sincerely,



Lyndell Brenton
Mayor

Email: lbrenton@libertymo.gov

CC: Curt Wenson, City Administrator