



Feb. 1, 2022

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Via E-Filing

Mr. Martin J. Oberman, Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20423

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Office of Proceedings
February 1, 2022
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Public Record

RE: Docket No FD 36496, *Application of the National Railroad Passenger Corporation Under 49 U.S.C. § 24308(e) – CSX Transp., Inc. and Norfolk S. Ry. Co.*

Notice of Intent to Participate in Public Hearing, Feb. 15-16, 2022

Dear Chairman Oberman:

The *Rail Passengers Association*, also known as the National Association of Railroad Passengers, is the nation's oldest and largest organization speaking for the nearly 40 million Americans who rely on passenger rail of all kinds every year. The *Association* is submitting this Notice of Intent to Appear before the Board's public hearing on this matter based on the significant interest of our members who travel on Amtrak and the tens of thousands of rail passengers we represent who have waited for many years to take advantage of restored passenger rail service on the Gulf Coast.

In accordance with the instructions in the Board's Feb. 1, 2022, decision (51093), the Rail Passengers Association is filing a Notice of Intent to Appear. The Association President & CEO, Mr. Jim Mathews, wishes to offer comments during the initial hearing phase scheduled for Feb. 15-16, 2022. His email address is jmathews@narprail.org.

The *Association* recognizes that the Board is not required to provide an opportunity for public comments in this proceeding and welcomes the Board's willingness to hear from members of the public and their representatives who will be affected by any adjudication the Board makes in regard to service restoration. In view of this, the *Association* respectfully requests ten minutes to deliver a prepared statement for the record, but we are also prepared to remain as long as the Board wishes for questions or clarifications sought by Board Members or staff.

The *Association* intends to focus its remarks on the importance of setting the proper precedent for introducing new or enhanced services, especially in view of historic new levels of taxpayer funding which were signed into law last November to accelerate the introduction of new services. We would also like to discuss the very real benefits – economic and social – that will accrue to the communities, to the States involved, and to the U.S. as a whole, from the restoration of Gulf Coast service.

We view the upcoming hearing as an opportunity to expand and extend the points our Association made in our previous filing to this docket on this matter on May 17, 2021. Restoration of this service is important to more than just the Gulf Coast region, which stands to benefit from hundreds of millions of dollars in visitor spending and economic growth each year stemming from the service. It is vitally important to the advancement of new passenger rail in the United States.

Per the terms of the Feb. 1, 2022, decision, we are not including a Certificate of Service with this Notice.

Respectfully submitted,



Jim Mathews
President & CEO
Rail Passengers Association
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