

February 7, 2022

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Cynthia T. Brown
Office of Proceedings
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

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Office of Proceedings
February 7, 2022
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Public Record

Re: Notice of Intent to Participate in Public Hearing, STB Finance Docket No. 36496
*Application of the National Railroad Passenger Corp Under 49 USC 24308(e) – CSX
Transportation Inc and Norfolk Southern Railway Co.*

Dear Ms. Brown:

As resident of New Orleans and both a transit and freight rail advocate, I would like to contribute to the public comments regarding proposed Amtrak service from New Orleans to Mobile both verbally at the hearing and by letter.

My points will be:

- 1) The life safety benefits of providing hurricane evacuation for those without private automobiles, particularly those that are semi-ambulatory. Today, only New Orleans proper (Orleans Parish) have made any arrangements for their evacuation. New Orleans Union Passenger Terminal serves as an Amtrak depot, so extra equipment could be readily added to this route in an emergency.
- 2) The New Orleans University Medical Center (home to both Tulane and LSU Medical Schools) and adjacent VA Hospital provide health care that is not available elsewhere in the service area. A wheel chair bound individual can access the streetcar at UPT, transfer to the Canal Streetcar and get off at the UMC & VA stop with acceptable distances by wheelchair and on flat grades. This access is available to all.
- 3) There will be no checked baggage on the proposed service, which entails just one minute wait times. This modest loss in track capacity can be more than made up by adding station track, perhaps at Pascagoula, long enough to use as a passing siding for freight trains. A third switch would allow for simultaneous use of the siding by both freight and Amtrak. Given the benefit to CSX, CSX should share in the marginal cost of elongating the station track to also serve as a freight siding. CSX may want to jointly invest in other combined station tracks/freight sidings at other proposed stations as well.

I would like to reserve 4 minutes to verbally present my points.

Thank You,

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