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Office of Proceedings
March 4, 2022
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March 4, 2022

By Electronic Submission

Ms. Cynthia T. Brown
Chief, Section of Administration
Office of Proceedings
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

 GRANTED Office of Proceedings ☐	DECISION ID NO.: 51154
	DECIDED DATE: 3/4/2022
	SERVED DATE: 3/7/2022
	APPROVED:  Acting Director

RE: *Virginia Passenger Rail Authority – Acquisition and Operation of Certain Assets of Norfolk Southern Railway Company In Montgomery And Roanoke Counties, And The Cities Of Salem And Roanoke, Virginia, STB Docket No. 36588*

Dear Ms. Brown:

Enclosed please find, submitted on behalf of the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority (“VPRA”) of the Commonwealth of Virginia, a revised Motion for Protective Order to file Confidential and Highly Confidential documents relating to the proceeding under seal. It was brought to my attention that the definition of Confidential Information in the Confidential Undertaking is narrower than the definition in the proposed Protective Order. The Confidential Undertaking has been revised to make the definitions consistent.

If you have any questions regarding this filing, please contact me. Thank you for your assistance.

Respectfully submitted,



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**BEFORE THE
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD**

FINANCE DOCKET NO. 36588

**VIRGINIA PASSENGER RAIL AUTHORITY
– ACQUISITION AND OPERATION OF CERTAIN ASSETS OF
NORFOLK SOUTHERN RAILWAY COMPANY IN MONTGOMERY AND ROANOKE
COUNTIES, AND THE CITIES OF SALEM AND ROANOKE, VIRGINIA**

**MOTION TO DISMISS
PETITION FOR EXEMPTION**

MOTION FOR PROTECTIVE ORDER

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Dated: March 4, 2022

**BEFORE THE
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD**

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MOTION FOR PROTECTIVE ORDER

Pursuant to 49 C.F.R. § 1104.14(b), the Commonwealth of Virginia, acting by and through its Virginia Passenger Rail Authority (“VPRA”), hereby requests that the Surface Transportation Board (“STB” or “Board”) issue a protective order allowing VPRA to file certain documents under seal. VPRA is filing concurrently herewith a Petition for Exemption and Motion to Dismiss related to its acquisition of the VPRA of certain real property, equipment, fixtures, and improvements currently owned by Norfolk Southern Railway Company (“Norfolk Southern”) located in Montgomery County, Roanoke County, and the City of Salem, all in the Commonwealth of Virginia, as well as an easement for the non-exclusive right to provide passenger rail service located in the Cities of Salem and Roanoke, Virginia. The objective of the transaction is to create additional passenger rail network capacity on the Subject Line. The Petition for Exemption covers the acquisition of the real property, equipment, fixtures, and improvements, as well as passenger rail easement; the Motion to Dismiss then asserts that the acquisition is not subject to Board jurisdiction.

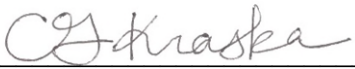
VPRA has included under seal the Comprehensive Rail Agreement, which will govern the transaction that is the subject of the above-docketed proceeding.¹ This document contains commercially sensitive and confidential terms and information the public release of which could cause competitive or other injury to Norfolk Southern. Public disclosure of the documents is not necessary for the consideration or disposition of the Motion to Dismiss.

VPRA also requests that this proposed protective order apply to any other documents filed in this docket by VPRA or any other entities or persons, should the need arise.

VPRA thus requests that the Board accept the documents for filing under seal, and that it adopt the proposed protective order contained in the appendix hereto to govern access to the documents. This approach is consistent with that previously taken by the Board in similar circumstances. See, e.g., Permian Basin Railways, Inc.—Acquisition of Control Exemption – San Luis & Rio Grande Railroad Company, Inc., STB Docket No. FD 34799 (STB served Dec. 23, 2005).

¹ In the Motion to Dismiss, the Comprehensive Rail Agreement is included as Exhibit A.

Respectfully submitted,



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Counsel for Virginia Passenger Rail Authority

Dated: March 4, 2022

APPENDIX

PROTECTIVE ORDER

1. For purposes of this Protective Order, "Confidential Information" means the Comprehensive Rail Agreement and any other documents containing commercially sensitive or confidential terms and information submitted in STB Finance Docket No. 36588.

2. For purposes of this Protective Order, "Highly Confidential Information" means materials that the submitting party in good faith designates as Highly Confidential Information, such as materials containing shipper-specific rate or cost data, or other competitively sensitive information, submitted in STB Finance Docket No. 36588.

3. Confidential Information shall be provided to any party only pursuant to this Protective Order and only upon execution and delivery to VPRA of the attached Undertaking for Confidential Material. Confidential Information shall be used solely for the purpose of this and any related Board proceedings, or any judicial review proceeding arising therefrom, and not for any other business, commercial, or competitive purpose.

4. Highly Confidential Information may be disclosed only to outside counsel or outside consultants of the party requesting such materials who have a need to know, handle, or review the materials for purposes of this proceeding and any judicial review proceeding arising herefrom, and only upon execution and delivery to VPRA of the attached Undertaking for Highly Confidential Material prior to receiving access to such materials. Material designated as "Highly Confidential Information" shall be subject to all of the other provisions of this Protective Order.

5. Confidential Information and/or Highly Confidential Information shall not be disclosed in any way or to any person without the written consent of VPRA or an order of the Board, solely for use in connection with this and related Board proceedings, or any judicial review proceeding arising therefrom, provided that such person has been given and has read a copy of this Protective Order and agrees to be bound by its terms by executing the attached Undertaking prior to receiving access to this information.

6. If the Board retains the Confidential Information and/or Highly Confidential Information, it shall, in order to keep it confidential, treat the information in accordance with the procedure set forth at 49 C.F.R. § 1104.14.

7. If any party intends to use Confidential Information and/or Highly Confidential Information at hearings in this proceeding or in any related Board proceedings, or in any judicial review proceeding arising therefrom, the party shall submit any documents setting forth or revealing such Confidential Information to the Board, or the reviewing court as appropriate, under seal, and shall accompany such submission with a written request to the Board or the court

to (i) restrict attendance at the hearing during discussion of such Confidential Information and/or Highly Confidential Information, and (ii) restrict access to the portion of the record or briefs reflecting discussion of such Confidential Information and/or Highly Confidential Information in accordance with the Protective Order.

8. Any party that files with the Board a document containing Confidential Information or Highly Confidential Information must simultaneously file with the Board a public version of that document.

9. All parties must comply with all of the provisions stated in this Protective Order unless good cause, as determined by the Board, is shown by any party to warrant suspension of any of the provisions herein.

UNDERTAKING – CONFIDENTIAL MATERIAL

I, _____, have read the Protective Order governing the filing of the Comprehensive Rail Agreement by the Commonwealth of Virginia, acting by and through its Virginia Passenger Rail Authority (“VPRA”), and any other documents containing commercially sensitive or confidential terms and information submitted in STB Finance Docket No. 36588 (“Confidential Information”), understand the same, and agree to be bound by its terms. I agree not to use or permit the use of any data or information obtained under this Undertaking, or to use or permit the use of any techniques disclosed or information learned as a result of receiving such data or information, for any purpose other than the preparation and presentation of evidence and argument in STB Docket No. FD 36588 or any judicial review proceeding taken or filed in connection therewith. I further agree not to disclose any data or information obtained under this Protective Order to any person who is not also bound by the terms of this Protective Order and has not executed an Undertaking in the form hereof.

Signed: _____

Position: _____

Affiliation: _____

Dated: _____

UNDERTAKING

HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL MATERIAL

As outside [counsel] [consultant] for _____, for which I am acting in this proceeding, I have read the Protective Order served on _____, 2022, governing the production of confidential documents in STB Docket No. FD 36588, understand the same, and agree to be bound by its terms. I further agree not to disclose any data, information or material designated “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL” to any person or entity who: (i) is not eligible for access to HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL material under the terms of the Protective Order, or (ii) has not executed a HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL undertaking in the form hereof. I also understand and agree, as a condition precedent to my receiving, reviewing, or using copies of any documents designated “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL,” that I will limit my use of those documents and the information they contain to this proceeding and any judicial review proceeding arising herefrom, that I will take all necessary steps to assure that said documents and information will be kept on a confidential basis by any outside counsel or outside consultants working with me, that under no circumstances will I permit access to said documents or information by personnel of my client, its subsidiaries, affiliates, or owners, and that at the conclusion of this proceeding and any judicial review proceeding arising herefrom, I will promptly destroy any copies of such designated documents obtained or made by me or by any outside counsel or outside consultants working with me, provided, however, that outside counsel may retain file copies of pleadings filed with the Board. I further understand that I must destroy all notes or other documents containing such highly confidential information in compliance with the terms of the Protective Order. Under no circumstances will I permit access to documents designated “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL” by, or disclose any information contained therein to, any persons or entities for which I am not acting in this proceeding.

I understand and agree that money damages would not be a sufficient remedy for breach of this Undertaking and that parties producing confidential documents shall be entitled to specific performance and injunctive or other equitable relief as a remedy for any such breach, and I further agree to waive any requirement for the securing or posting of any bond in connection with such remedy. Such remedy shall not be deemed to be the exclusive remedy for breach of this Undertaking but shall be in addition to all remedies available at law or equity.

Outside [Counsel] [Consultant]: _____

Dated: _____