



Town of Shelby Fire Department

June 8, 2022

United State Surface Transportation Board
395 East Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423
To Whom It May Concern:

The Town of Shelby Fire Department comprises of 31 volunteer fire fighters, EMS personnel and me. As an entirely volunteer-based department that provides both fire and EMS services to a primarily rural community; response time is critical. That is why I am contacting you with this letter addressing our concerns with the studies and data collection related to the STB's regulatory oversight of Canadian Pacific Railway's potential acquisition of Kansas City Southern Railway.

Our main fire station sits within feet of the railroad track and over half our staff must cross those tracks to respond to the station. With an increase of train traffic this will add a significant amount of response time, could possibly doubling our current time. Last year we responded to 365 calls, or a call a day. This year we have responded to 197 calls, which could mean a yearly increase of 9% call response.

These increases in train volume could have an effect 26.09% of our personnel just arriving to the station 1 from their home. Also, at times, these people are responding from else where in the community. The response time from the station to the incident is affected greater. Half of our jurisdiction requires us to either cross these railroad tracks or add an additional 4 minutes onto our response time.

Given that the average freight train has increased by 25% since 2008 according to the US Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation; increasing the length of trains because of an approved merger would definitely impact our department's response time when seconds are critical.

Our department and the community in which we serve are concerned about increased train traffic, length and frequency. As a volunteer fire chief whose primary occupation is data driven, I would request the STB provide conclusive data as to how severe the increase of train activity will be in the short and long-term. And if the conclusive data shows a significant increase in train activity that adversely affects first responder response times or increased safety hazards to those crossing the tracks, then the STB should reconsider any merger approval.

As the Fire Chief for the Town of Shelby, the number one concern of mine (and our team) is not being able to exit our station in response to an emergency because a train is blocking our only arterial option to a call.

Please take our department's concerns into consideration when continuing to review the Canadian Pacific Railway acquisition of Kansas City Southern.

Respectfully submitted,
Tony Holinka
Town of Shelby Fire Chief

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