



Fire Department

June 16, 2022

Aaron Lipski
Chief**Joshua Parish**
Assistant Chief
Sharon Purifoy-Smoots
Assistant Chief
De'Wayne Smoots
Assistant Chief

United State Surface Transportation Board
395 East Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

RE: FD 36500 – Canadian Pacific/Kansas City Southern Merger

Dear Director Gosselin:

The Milwaukee Fire Department (MFD), was established January 1, 1875. The department consists of 29 emergency fire stations. 29 engines, 8 trucks, 12 paramedic units, 6 Battalion Chiefs, 2 heavy rescues, along with special teams including dive rescue, hazardous materials, tactical emergency medical services, and heavy urban rescue. The MFD provides basic and advanced life support with over 900 EMT basics and over 130 EMT paramedics. Over 80% of all MFD responses are EMS-related.

As Fire Chief of Milwaukee, nothing is more important to our department than safety. Safety for personnel, safety for the Milwaukee residents whom we are called to serve, and safety for our community at large.

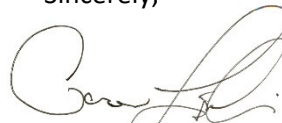
As the individual directly responsible for the health and safety of our team members and the community the MFD serves, MFD is concerned with the recent US Surface Transportation Board's (STB) review and analysis of the Canadian Pacific-Kansas City Southern merger.

Given the initial analysis indicated the train lengths potentially doubling, and train travel frequency increasing as well, I am choosing to submit comments requesting the STB further investigate and analyze the potential hazards and delay that would adversely affect the MFD and the community members we serve at at-grade railway crossings.

Some estimates have concluded the Canadian Pacific-Kansas City Southern merger could increase the average 10-minute wait time at an at-grade crossing to 30-40 minutes. In an emergency situation, an extra 20-30 minutes would compromise the critical effectiveness of our EMTs and firefighters, and the health and livelihood of those who need timely response.

For these reasons, the MFD is requesting that the STB require more data, analysis and transparency as it relates to the Canadian Pacific-Kansas City Southern merger. For the health and safety of our department, and the City of Milwaukee, we believe this is a reasonable request.

Sincerely,


AARON LIPSKI
Chief

AL/cf

