

Sun Prairie Fire & Rescue Company

Christopher Garrison, Fire Chief
2598 W. Main St.
Sun Prairie, WI 53590

608-837-5066 (Phone)
cgarrison@cityofsunprairie.com
www.cityofsunprairie.com/fire

608-825-0705 (Fax)



July 26, 2022

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 state of Wisconsin fire service is at a crossroads. For both full time and volunteer departments, we are facing increased calls for services, decreased availability of firefighters and budgetary pressures that create challenges for keeping community members and personnel safe.

Given this perfect storm that has placed undue pressure on our fire department; among hundreds of others departments across the State of Wisconsin, we cannot afford to have additional strains on our mission to provide the highest level of protection of life and property to the community we serve. Unfortunately, an additional strain on the horizon would be an increase in the frequency and length of trains traveling through Wisconsin communities at multiple at-grade crossings.

Among the first responder community, there is a concern that the Canadian Pacific-Kansas City Southern merger will place community members and firefighters at risk as well as increase response time for critical /life saving emergency calls. Another serious risk of increased trains resulting from the proposed CP-KCS merger is blocked at-grade railroad crossings that place vehicle commuters, innocent bystanders, and businesses in close proximity at serious risk of injury or possibly death.

Communities should have further opportunity to provide input. However, that input should be preceded by facts. The facts should be secured through further analysis and data collection that provides those directly affected with the necessary information to evaluate and provide a risk assessment for first responders and the citizens of the communities in which we serve. Please take a more comprehensive approach to study and analyze the predictable increase in train traffic, length and congestion/blockage of at-grade crossings and the exact impact that will have on delaying response times and train/vehicle accidents.

Sincerely

Chris Garrison
Sun Prairie Fire Department