

September 12, 2022

305279

Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
September 13, 2022
Part of
Public Record

Re: Docket No. FD 36500 – Notice of Intent to Participate

Dear Surface Transportation Board Members,

In accordance with orders promulgated in the notice of public hearing released on July 22, 2022, we are writing to express our intent to participate in the public hearing on September 28-30, 2022, regarding Docket No. FD 36500.

Public comment will be provided via video conference on behalf of the **Southeast Louisiana (SoLA) Super Region**, a partnership between the Baton Rouge Area Chamber, Greater New Orleans, Inc. and the South Louisiana Economic Council to foster cooperation for mutual economic benefits across Southeast Louisiana. The proposed speaker, representing SoLA, is Michael Hecht, President and CEO of Greater New Orleans, Inc. The proposed speaker's email is mhecht@gnoinc.org.

We request three minutes of public comment time to address key points. These points include:

- Support for the Canadian Pacific-Kansas City Southern merger, considering Canadian Pacific's expressed commitment to the New Orleans-Baton Rouge passenger rail service
- Support for Canadian Pacific's agreement with Amtrak, as included in the docket, and as consistent with Amtrak's long-term vision in implementing New Orleans-Baton Rouge passenger rail service
- Recent investment and developments towards New Orleans-Baton Rouge passenger rail service
- Importance of regional passenger rail service for regional economic competitiveness, economic mobility, workforce connections, and quality of life
- Passenger rail's ability to act as an additional, reliable evacuation route

We thank you for your consideration of this matter, and we appreciate the opportunity to comment on this docket.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Devin Ricci".

Devin Ricci
Chair
SoLA Super Region