

SUPER NEIGHBORHOOD 64 & 88
GREATER EASTWOOD, LAWDALE, & WAYSIDE

September 28, 2022

VIA E-FILING

Surface Transportation Board
Office of Proceedings
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

RE: STB Docket No. FD 36500, Canadian Pacific – Kansas City Southern Merger EIS

Dear Members of the Board,

As representatives of the residents and business making up Super Neighborhood 64 & 88, Greater Eastwood, Lawndale & Wayside in the City of Houston, we write in opposition to the proposed merger between Canadian Pacific (CP) Railway and Kansas City Southern (KSC) Railway, and to express deep concern over the environmental and quality of life impacts that are likely to stem from the merger.

According to the Surface Transportation Board's Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), the merger is expected to bring 8 to 14 additional trains per day through an increasingly busy Houston railroad complex. This added train traffic will cause further congestion and exacerbate adverse impacts across numerous communities including ours.

Even more troubling is the fact that the companies have proposed no infrastructure or capacity expansion projects in Houston to mitigate impacts due to the merger, nor have they proposed any mitigation agreements with local authorities. This is unacceptable. The railroads cannot continue to add to an already strained railroad complex without planning for investment to minimize or prevent environmental issues and disruptions in neighboring communities.

Over the last few years, our East End community has had to deal with the impacts of heavily congested tracks. We have experienced more trains (and longer-length trains) occupying railroad tracks, blocking major thoroughfares, and limiting access to local destinations and businesses. Most concerning, as these trains idle in the middle of our community (sometimes for hours at a time) they're emitting fuel exhaust that degrades the air quality and generating noise and vibrations that are harmful and disruptive.

These blockages don't only pose an environmental risk, they also leave us stranded, prompts unsafe pedestrian behavior, and too frequently forces emergency responders to scramble to find alternate, longer routes. Each year, the Houston Fire Department reports hundreds of incidents in which emergency responders have had to reroute or were delayed by trains occupying critical crossings. This is extremely concerning to us and heighten the importance of not adding to an already strained railroad complex without providing for solutions or mitigation.

We implore federal regulators to reconsider this proposal, and to push CP and KSC railroads to engage local stakeholders, including state and local leaders, emergency officials, and environmental advocates, to develop mitigation agreements and plans before taking any further action on the merger.

Thank you for consideration of these ongoing concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Amy Catherine Dinn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Amy" being more prominent and the last name "Dinn" ending in a long, sweeping horizontal stroke.

Amy Catherine Dinn

President

Super Neighborhood 64 & 88

City of Houston, Texas