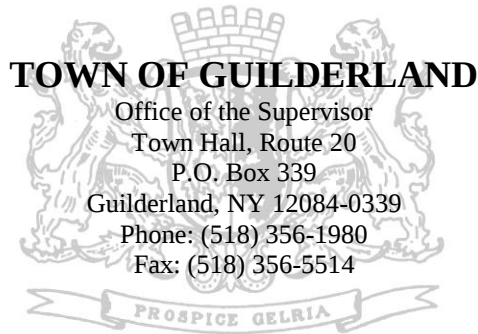




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Office of Chief Counsel
August 3, 2026
Part of
Public Record

PETER G. BARBER
SUPERVISOR

JESSICA MONTGOMERY
SECRETARY

August 1, 2026

Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Re: Docket No. FD36873
Union Pacific Corporation and Union Pacific Railroad Company & Norfolk Southern
Corporation and Norfolk Southern Railway

Dear Members of the Surface Transportation Board:

Upon behalf of the Town of Guilderland, I submit this letter to express the Town's concerns about the potential environmental impacts of the proposed merger of Union Pacific Railroad Company and Norfolk Southern Railway.

The Town of Guilderland ("Town"), established in 1803, is located in Albany County, State of New York. The Town includes the separately incorporated Village of Altamont, which is the home of Altamont Free Library. The Village of Voorheesville is adjacent to the Town. Both the Village of Altamont, see Docket No. 311844, and the Village of Voorheesville, see Docket No. 311592, have appeared and commented in this action.

Potential Impacts on Altamont Free Library

In 2005, the Town purchased the former Delaware & Hudson Railroad passenger station, an historic building built in 1897 in the Village of Altamont. In 2009, the Town transferred the historic building to the Altamont Free Library. The Altamont Free Library is an association library operating under a permanent charter from the New York State Education Department. The Library building is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The Library, as a former rail station, is immediately adjacent to Norfolk Southern's rail tracks.

To transform the old dilapidated train station into a new modern Library, the Town, the Village, and the friends of the Library committed and raised over \$1,000,000 in a seven-year effort. The new Library preserves the depot's original, high-ceiling, one-room footprint, including the original wooden ticket booth. With the financial assistance of State Senator Pat Fahy and State Assemblymember Gabriella Romero, the building was further modernized with ADA handicapped accessible entrances and outdoor platform community gathering

area. This collective effort resulted in a beautifully restored Library which, with the adjacent Orsini Park, is the center of cultural activity in the historic Village.

A review of this merger must consider the impact of more frequent, heavier railroad uses, and vibrations on the historic Altamont Free Library and what mitigation measures and conditions might be appropriate.

Potential Impacts on First Responders

The Town's Department of Emergency Medical Services ("EMS") provides advanced life support ambulances throughout the Town, including the Village. As the EMS Agency of the Year by the NYS Department of Health, the Town EMS is recognized for providing life-saving service and stellar response times. The Town has extended this award-winning service to the Town of Knox residents which is served by a Town EMS station in the Village. To reach the Town of Knox, and parts of the Village and the Town, a dispatched ambulance must cross one of three surface Norfolk Southern crossings in the Village. There is no alternative route for ambulances to reach these communities. The emergency responses by the fire department and police agencies must all use the three surface crossings,

A review of this merger must consider the impact of more frequent and more lengthy blockage of first responders at the surface crossings and the appropriate mitigation measures and conditions. We also concur with the concerns expressed by the Village of Altamont. See Docket No. 311844, regarding the impacts of increased rail traffic on existing deficient infrastructure and rail warning system, noise, vibrations, blocked crossings, and increased risks of derailments and spills. The Town is also adjacent to the Village of Voorheesville and we agree with its concerns about the proposed merger. See Docket No. 311592.

To ensure that the collective concerns of the Villages of Altamont and Voorheesville, the Altamont Free Library, and Town of Guilderland are addressed, we request that the Office of Environmental Analysis provide the opportunity for an in-person public meeting at a time, place, and manner accessible to the interested communities. We offer the Town of Guilderland's meeting room, with advanced broadcast facilities, as the site for this public meeting.

We respectfully request that any merger be conditioned on a comprehensive applicant-funded mitigation agreement that addresses potential harm to the Altamont Free Library, increased blocked surface crossings, the timely delivery of emergency services, improved infrastructure, and the overall health and protection of the impacted communities.

Very truly yours,

s/Peter G. Barber
Peter G. Barber
Town Supervisor

cc: Parties of record

Senator Charles Schumer

Senator Kirsten Gillibrand

Congressman Paul Tonko

State Senator Patricia Fahy (via email)

State Assemblymember Gabriella Romero (via email)