



HUNTERDON COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING & LAND USE

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Alan R. Hunt, Ph.D. Director
August 25, 2026

Elizabeth Webster
Office of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board (Docket No. FD 36873)
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423

RE: **Docket No. FD 36873** Preliminary Comments, Environmental Impact Statement Consultation
Request: Union Pacific Acquisition of Norfolk Southern

Dear Ms. Webster,

The County of Hunterdon appreciates the consultation request from the Surface Transportation Board. The Norfolk Southern Lehigh Line (segment 10176) is an important economic asset serving commercial, industrial, and agricultural businesses in Hunterdon County. It also provides critical existing short line freight railroad connections and supports economic opportunity for future connections and service to industrial, manufacturing, and commercially zoned properties along the Lehigh Line and its spurs.

A review of the Assets Tables for the Norfolk Southern Railroad identified unlisted railroad segments and railroad crossings located in Hunterdon County. Information about these assets may be relevant to developing an Environmental Impact Statement. These include:

- **Bloomsbury Central Industrial Track** (also known as the Bloomsbury Branch) – a spur from the Lehigh Line approximately 7.6 miles in length located in Bloomsbury Borough and Bethlehem Township, NJ. The GIS map layer “NS Owned Rail Lines” includes this spur but it is not listed in the Master Data Table.
 - Begins at Lehigh Line Interlocking at approximately MP LE 71.0; 40.64975392117829, -75.11949210549712
 - Ends at Division Post MP 60.1, Raritan Valley Line, New Jersey Transit; 40.68346799812844, -75.00372689729342
 - This Track has several public grade crossings not listed in the Master Data Table – Roadway and At-Grade Crossings (G1), including:
 - Church Street, MP 64.9, County Road 579, Bloomsbury, NJ; USDOT ID 172435T, 40.653148922245364, -75.08517680641232
 - Person Road, MP 63.2, Bethlehem Township, NJ; USDOT ID 172430J, 40.66227874213655, -75.05634427947774
 - Vliet Farm Road, MP 62.69, Bethlehem Township, NJ; USDOT ID 172428H, 40.66508988121589, -75.04674785445535
 - Valley Station Road, MP 61.99, Bethlehem Township, NJ; USDOT ID 172424F, 40.6714362931851, -75.03581444857126

- Ludlow Station Road, MP 60.07, Bethlehem Township, NJ; USDOT ID 172421K, 40.68338308542859, -75.00395291230755
- This Track also has several private and farm crossings:
 - Pine Hollow Road, USDOT ID 172439V, MP 66.51
 - Farm Crossing, USDOT ID 949860V, MP 66.15
 - Pine Hollow Lane, USDOT ID 172438N, MP 66.09
 - Private Crossing, USDOT ID 172437G, MP 65.74
 - Private Crossing, USDOT ID 949859B, MP 65.59
 - Farm Crossing, MP 64.33
 - Private Road, USDOT ID 172434L, MP 64.16
 - Private Road, USDOT ID 172433E, MP 64.03
 - Driveway, MP 62.86
 - Private Crossing, MP 62.72
 - Private Road, USDOT ID 172427B, MP 62.44
 - Farm Crossing, USDOT ID 172426U, MP 62.35
 - Private Road, USDOT ID 172435M, MP 62.2
 - Residence Crossing, USDOT ID 172423Y, MP 61.5
- **Lehigh Line Three Bridges Railroad Public Crossing**, MP LE 48.61, on the Lehigh Line at Main Street (Hunterdon County Road 613), Readington Township, NJ; USDOT ID 362827U, 40.51985254695418, -74.79972080769092. This crossing does not appear to be listed in the Master Data Table – Roadway and At-Grade Crossings (G1).
- **Lehigh Line Private Crossings.**
 - Private Crossing, USDOT ID 362799T, MP LE 67.69
 - Farm Crossing, USDOT ID 925120X, MP LE 61.65
 - Farm Crossing, USDOT ID 925119D, MP LE 55.76
 - Farm Crossing, USDOT ID 362822K, MP LE 50.3

Additional relevant information may be located in the following resources.

- New Jersey State Rail Plan 2025 Update (New Jersey Department of Transportation and New Jersey Transit)
- New Jersey Statewide Freight Plan (2023, New Jersey Department of Transportation)
- 2023 Freight Rail Grade Crossing Assessment Update (North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority)
- Rail Freight Capacity and Needs Assessment to Year 2040 (2013, North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority)
- NJ Railroads Network GIS Data is available from New Jersey Department of Transportation at: <https://www.arcgis.com/home/item.html?id=9b7498a04a6146ff859c07ac242ccbd1#overview>

Please contact us for additional information or questions.

Regards,



Alan R. Hunt, PhD

Director, Hunterdon County Department of Planning and Land Use