



Board of County Commissioners

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September 9, 2026

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Patrick J. Fuchs, Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423
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ENTERED
Office of Chief Counsel
September 14, 2026
Part of
Public Record

CC: All Parties of Record

RE: Union Pacific and Norfolk Southern Merger, FD 36873

To Members of the Surface Transportation Board,

We are writing in support of the proposed merger between Union Pacific (UP) and Norfolk Southern railroads in light of assurances from Union Pacific that engagement with local governments in Eagle County will dramatically improve.

Our sincere wish is that this merger leads to improved cooperation, communications, and information sharing between the railroads and the communities they serve and operate within. Communication between railroad corporations and Eagle County and other local governments has, in the past, been frustrating at best.

We believe there are strong, positive possibilities that may come with revitalized rail transportation and shipping in our region, including:

- Increased bilateral communication and relationship building with local governments
- Increased deployment of new rail technologies to increase safety and reduce derailments and/or spills
- Increased rail performance standards
- Increased rail freight competitiveness with on-road freight

There have been and remain many potential opportunities for our local communities vis-a-vis rail rights of way, crossings, properties, and operations that remain unexplored or unresolved due to Union Pacific's lack of engagement or complete non-responsiveness, including:

- Commuter rail from the regional airport to resort and work centers
- Rail banking
- Rails-to-trails and trail development within right of way
- Railroad property sale and development



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- Assistance with rail crossings

Union Pacific has assured us that they are committed to strong engagement and responsiveness to local public officials. We are therefore hopeful that if approved, this merger will bring a greater commitment from the railroad to community partnership and are therefore supportive of the Union Pacific and Norfolk Southern merger.

Sincerely,

Jeanne McQueeney
Commissioner

Tom Boyd
Chair

Matt Scherr
Commissioner