

Matthew A. Pacifico
MAYOR



1301 Twelfth Street, Ste. 200
Altoona, PA 16601
814.949.2476

312378

September 14, 2026

Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423

Re: Union Pacific Corporation and Norfolk Southern Corporation

ENTERED
Office of Chief Counsel
September 18, 2026
Part of
Public Record

Dear Members of the Surface Transportation Board:

As Mayor of Altoona, Pennsylvania, I am writing to express my support for the proposed combination of Union Pacific and Norfolk Southern.

Railroads have been an important part of Altoona's history for generations. Our community was built around the railroad, and the industry continues to play an important role in our economy, our workforce, and our identity. We understand firsthand how important a strong and reliable rail network is to the businesses and communities that depend on it.

From my perspective as Mayor, I believe this proposed merger presents an opportunity to strengthen the nation's freight rail network and create new opportunities for communities along the combined system. A more connected rail network can help businesses reach customers and markets more efficiently, support economic development, and strengthen the competitiveness of communities like Altoona.

Altoona has a long history of serving as an important transportation and rail center. We want to see that tradition continue into the future. We also want to make sure that Pennsylvania and our region remain well positioned to attract new investment, support existing businesses and create good paying jobs. A modern, competitive freight rail system is an important part of accomplishing those goals.

The Juniata Locomotive Repair Shops are an especially important part of that future. The Shops represent a significant railroad asset in our community, as well as a skilled workforce and a longstanding center of locomotive maintenance and repair. I believe the continued use and expansion of the Juniata Locomotive Repair Shops within Union Pacific's operations would provide an opportunity to build upon Altoona's existing railroad capabilities, preserve and create skilled jobs, and support continued investment in our region. Maintaining and growing this important facility would also recognize the value of the workforce, infrastructure, and railroad expertise that Altoona has developed over generations.

e mail: mpacifico@altoonapa.gov
website: www.altoonapa.gov



Printed on Recycled Paper



I recognize that the Surface Transportation Board has an important responsibility to carefully evaluate the proposed transaction, including its effects on communities, employees, customers, competition, and the broader transportation network. I respect that process and the Board's responsibility to consider the full record before making its decision.

At the same time, I believe it is important for the Board to hear from local leaders who understand the value of rail transportation to their communities. In Altoona, we see the railroad not simply as a means of moving freight, but as an essential part of our economic future.

For these reasons, I respectfully encourage the Surface Transportation Board to give favorable consideration to the proposed Union Pacific-Norfolk Southern transaction as it evaluates the application.

Thank you for considering the perspective of the City of Altoona and for the Board's continued work on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Matthew Pacifico
Mayor
City of Altoona, Pennsylvania

