



Richard H. Finan
Mayor

VILLAGE OF EVENDALE

10500 Reading Road • Evendale, Ohio 45241-2574 • Phone 513-563-2244

September 17, 2026

Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423

RE: Norfolk Southern Proposed
Expansion of Sharon Railyard
Environmental Impact
FD36873

Honorable Members of the Board

The Sharon Railyard located in Southwest Ohio is jointly within the communities of the City of Sharonville and the Village of Evendale. Within the proposed acquisition of Norfolk Southern by Union Pacific, there is a proposed expansion of the Sharonville (Ohio) Railyard. This proposed expansion includes installation of a mile of rail, 350 surface parking spaces and a 179% increase in intermodal transactions per day from 185 trucks per day to 565 trucks per day.

INCREASED EMISSIONS

Currently, the access to the intermodal facility is limited and results in lines of trucks idling waiting to enter the facility to drop off or pick up containers at the facility. The access road to the complex is narrow and is hampered by the presence of the rail Tressel to the east that limits line of site for vehicles exiting the complex. The proposed increase of truck traffic will result in an increase of truck-based emissions released in the area. In addition, the proposed increase in rail traffic would increase the amount of train exhaust emissions.

We would request a traffic impact study be performed and additional options for ingress/egress be coordinated with the local jurisdictions.

INCREASED FLOOD RISK

The proposed hard surface improvements (parking, rail, expanded container storage) will have an effect on abutting properties from stormwater runoff. A portion of the railyard is within the 100 year floodplain. In addition, a majority of the abutting properties are also within the floodplain. The railyard is approximately at a grade elevation of 580 feet. The adjoining properties are in the range of 3 to 8 feet below the railyard.



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The current drainage patterns for the railyard drain to both the Sharon Creek and Mill Creek tributaries. The drainage ditch lines along the rail within the railroad's property are overgrown and not well maintained. The proposed improvements would have an impact on these both of these creeks' watersheds and the adjoining properties.

Earlier this year the Village was approached about drainage improvement to the yard on behalf of Norfolk Southern, but to date none of the improvements have been performed. We request that a drainage study be performed to show how the proposed improvements may impact the surrounding waterways and what measures need to be implemented to address these issues.

DUST CONTROL

The railyard has a significant number of shipping containers on-site. These are loaded and unloaded by mobile cranes. In the past, this has created a significant amount of dust that is visible. One of the abutting properties manufactures food products and this dust has caused issues with this company.

We would request that any additional yard and parking areas be required paved to prevent an increase in the air born dust.

SPILL MITIGATION

The Sharon Railyard sits above Great Miami Buried Valley Aquifer. This aquifer stores approximately 1.5 trillion gallons and provides the drinking water for over 2 million people in Southwest Ohio. The aquiver is compose of deep, highly permeable layers of sand and gravel. Any uncontained spills of hazardous liquids from rail traffic would have an impact upon the aquifer and drinking water for the area.

We appreciate the opportunity is providing our comments and concerns regarding the proposed expansion of this facility.

Sincerely,

Richard H. Finan
Mayor