

GLEN OSBORNE BOROUGH

Allegheny County, Pennsylvania

September 12, 2026

Ms. Elizabeth Webster
Surface Transportation Board, Office of Environmental Analysis
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423

RE: Docket No. FD 36873 — Union Pacific/Norfolk Southern Control Transaction; Preliminary Environmental Consultation Comments of Glen Osborne Borough, Pennsylvania

Dear Ms. Webster:

Glen Osborne Borough (Borough) submits these preliminary comments on the environmental review of the proposed Union Pacific–Norfolk Southern control transaction (the Transaction), in response to the Board's August 19, 2026 request for agency and stakeholder input under Docket No. FD 36873.

The Borough, with support from neighboring communities, has already identified the railroad crossing (DOT Grade Crossing #507464J) as a major safety concern given current traffic volumes and is actively working to make safety improvements to the crossing. The Borough recently applied for a study grant under the FRA to eliminate the crossing, knowing this is the best path forward to reduce significant accidents and lack of emergency service access that occur due to the complicated intersection caused by the railroad crossing (reference GRANT14664865, under the Railroad Crossing Elimination grant, opportunity FR-RCE-26-001).

The crossing is already a major issue, with a current FRA Risk Index of 20,228, exceeding the Nationwide Significant Risk Threshold of 15,488 by more than 30 percent. In addition, PennDOT and local police records document over 150 vehicles involved in crashes, 2 fatalities, and 23 injuries at this location over the past five years. The crossing is the sole vehicular access point for 43 homes and three businesses, and blocked-crossing incidents have repeatedly delayed emergency response. Any increase in NS train volume from the Transaction will raise this risk further and will compound the chronic locomotive-horn noise burden the crossing already imposes on residents in this highly populated area.

An increase in traffic is unacceptable for the Borough unless the safety infrastructure is updated. We respectfully request that OEA include DOT Crossing #507464J and this NS line segment within the scope of the Environmental Impact Statement, evaluating both the safety and noise impacts of increased train operations at this location. We further request that the Board consider, as a condition of approval or an environmental mitigation commitment, that the Applicants fund the safety improvements needed to bring this crossing to an acceptable risk level:

- 1) Supplementary safety measures identified include two additional gates with vehicle detection to create a 4-gate crossing that eliminates the common practice of vehicles waiting on the tracks for trains to pass to stay out of the 4-lane highway next to the crossing. This also allows Glen Osborne Borough to apply for a quiet zone at this crossing, which would significantly improve the community's well-being.

OR

- 2) Provide funding for the planning and construction of a grade-separated overpass to eliminate the crossing.

We appreciate the opportunity to participate in this process and are available to provide additional supporting data, including our FRA risk analysis and five-year crash records, to assist OEA's scoping determination.

Sincerely,

Glen Osborne Borough Council