Regional Transportation Council

The Transportation Policy Body for the North Central Texas Council of Governments
(Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Dallas-Fort Worth Region)

October 29, 2026

Danielle Gosselin, Director
Office of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

Dear Ms. Gosselin:

On behalf of the Regional Transportation Council (RTC), the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for North Central Texas, I am writing to request that the Surface Transportation Board (STB) hold a public meeting in the Dallas-Fort Worth region as part of the environmental review of the proposed Union Pacific acquisition of Norfolk Southern (**Docket No. FD 36873**).

As the fourth largest region in the country, the Dallas-Fort Worth (DFW) area is a major freight rail hub, and the proposed transaction has the potential to impact intercity passenger rail safety, air quality, and the long-term performance of the region's transportation system. A meeting in the DFW area would provide an opportunity for local governments, stakeholders, and members of the public to provide comments on the acquisition.

Federal transportation planning requirements under Title 23 and Title 49 of the U.S. Code direct MPOs to consider a range of factors when developing transportation plans and strategies. MPO planning factors include economic vitality, transportation safety and security, accessibility and mobility for people and freight, environmental protection and quality of life, connectivity between transportation modes and facilities, efficient system management, infrastructure preservation, and transportation system resilience and reliability. These factors are relevant to understanding the potential regional impacts of the proposed merger.

Again, we respectfully request that the STB consider the DFW region when establishing locations for its public meetings. Thank you for your consideration and continued commitment to the public participation process. If you have any questions, please reach out to me or Michael Morris, P.E., Staff Director to the Regional Transportation Council, at mmorris@nctcog.org or (817) 695-9241.

Sincerely,



Stephen Mason, Chair
Regional Transportation Council
Mayor, City of Cedar Hill

RG:cc

cc: Michael Morris, P.E., Staff Director to the Regional Transportation Council