CITY OF HERCULES

Chris Kelley, Mayor

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Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

RE: Docket No. FD 36873 — Support for the Proposed Union Pacific–Norfolk Southern Merger

Dear Chairman and Members of the Surface Transportation Board:

I am writing to express support for the proposed merger of Union Pacific Railroad and Norfolk Southern Railway, and to highlight the opportunities that a stronger, more integrated national rail network can create for communities such as Hercules, California.

Hercules is a growing city in the San Francisco Bay Area, strategically situated along the Interstate 80 transportation corridor and Union Pacific's principal rail route connecting the Bay Area with Sacramento and points east. Our community has a long history closely connected to industry, manufacturing, commerce, and transportation. Today, we are building on that heritage through renewed investment in economic development, transportation infrastructure, biotechnology, and sustainable growth.

The proposed combination of Union Pacific and Norfolk Southern represents an opportunity to modernize and strengthen America's freight transportation system. A unified coast-to-coast railroad has the potential to improve efficiency, reduce delays associated with freight transfers, expand market access for American businesses, and strengthen the nation's competitiveness. These are important objectives for communities like Hercules that depend upon reliable transportation infrastructure to attract investment, create jobs, and support economic growth.

The merger has particular relevance to our City's efforts to develop the **Hercules Hub**, a major multimodal transportation project intended to integrate passenger rail, regional bus service, ferry connections, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, and transit-oriented development along the San Pablo Bay waterfront. The project envisions a new Capitol Corridor passenger rail station on the existing Union Pacific corridor, connecting Hercules more directly with Sacramento, Oakland, San Jose, and the broader Northern California economy.

We view the proposed merger as an opportunity to advance a more coordinated and efficient rail transportation system—one that accommodates both the movement of goods and the growing demand for passenger transportation. As Union Pacific expands its national reach, we look forward to strengthening our working relationship with the

railroad and identifying opportunities to support the Hercules Hub, facilitate future passenger rail operations, and make efficient use of existing rail infrastructure.

Hercules welcomes the opportunity to work constructively with Union Pacific as it pursues this historic transaction. We are particularly interested in establishing a collaborative relationship that advances the Hercules Hub, supports the continued development of Capitol Corridor passenger rail service, and creates opportunities for coordinated infrastructure investment benefiting both the railroad and our community.

For these reasons, **I support approval of the proposed Union Pacific–Norfolk Southern merger**, consistent with the Board's statutory responsibilities and its consideration of the public interest. I encourage the Board to recognize the potential benefits of a more efficient national rail network, including the opportunities such a system presents for communities like Hercules.

Thank you for your consideration and for the Board's important work in evaluating this significant transaction.

Sincerely,

Chris Kelley

Chris Kelley
Mayor
City of Hercules, California