REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

JEFFERSON, ORLEANS, PLAQUEMINES, ST. BERNARD, ST. CHARLES, ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST, ST. TAMMANY AND TANGIPAHOA PARISHES

313139

November 18, 2026

ENTERED
Office of Chief Counsel
November 19, 2026
Part of
Public Record

Ms. Cynthia Brown
Chief of Case Administration
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington DC, 20423-001

Re: Union Pacific Corporation and Union Pacific Railroad Company- Control- Norfolk Southern Corporation and Norfolk Southern Railway Company, Docket no. FD 36873

Dear Ms. Brown:

The Regional Planning Commission is the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the New Orleans urban area in accordance with 23 USC 134. Pursuant to that responsibility, we are requesting that the Surface Transportation Board (STB) hold a public meeting in the New Orleans region as part of the environmental review of the proposed Union Pacific acquisition of the Norfolk- Southern, Docket No, FD 36873.

Our request comes as the New Orleans rail gateway is one of the most important freight corridors in the United States. Its continued competitiveness is essential to the economic vitality of the New Orleans region, the gulf coast, and arguably, the nation. Our communities rely on the six Class 1 railroads to access the port complexes along the lower Mississippi River and adjacent industries that are vital to the commerce of the United States.

Title 23 and Title 49 of the US Code direct MPO's such as ours to consider several factors in their respective planning processes and policies. These include economic vitality; safety and security of the transportation system; and improving access and mobility for people and freight, among others. A merger of these carriers may be impactful to transportation planning and policies promulgated by the Commission.

Again, we respectfully request that the STB consider the New Orleans Gateway be considered as a venue for its public meetings so that local and regional business interests and other stakeholders may participate directly in the public participation process.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Jeffrey W. Roesel AICP
Executive Director
Regional Planning Commission

Cc: Parties of Record

REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
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