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Office of Chief Counsel
November 18, 2026
Part of
Public Record

RE: Proposed Union Pacific Railroad Merger

November 18/22, 2026

To Whom It May Concern:

I wish to share my opposition to the proposed merger of the Union Pacific and Norfolk Southern Railroads. I understand that railroad traffic could increase by as much as 22% if the merger is allowed. Union Pacific trains are already 3 miles in length, and routinely block local intersections for, at times, well more than an hour. Such delays already release diesel particulate into the surrounding airshed and additional intersection blockages would only worsen these conditions.

These delays impact automobile, bicycle, and pedestrian traffic, as well as mass transit, in the heart of our city. Buses are now forced to reroute to accommodate the long delays. And public safety is compromised as frustrated bicyclists and pedestrians climb between train cars to cross the blocked tracks even if it means carrying their bicycles, pets and packages as they do so. The impacts of those delays are rippling throughout Portland's transportation system as people struggle to find alternate routes, often on narrow, crowded streets not meant to carry that amount of traffic. The proposed merger will make these conditions worse.

As you consider this merger, I ask that you do the following: 1) hold several public hearings in Portland, especially in areas where the regular blockages are occurring, and 2) consider ways to fully address the significant adverse impact that increased freight rail service is likely to have on Portland, Oregon.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Linda Nettekoven

CC: All Parties of Record