



**MAYOR
BEN HODGIN**

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF HARTFORD CITY
Together We're Better

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Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington DC 20423-0001

Attn: Ms. Cynthia T Brown, Chief Section of Administration, Office of Proceedings

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
October 3, 2017
Part of
Public Record

Re: Docket AB-290 (Sub-No. 392X) Norfolk Southern Railway Company
Abandonment in Hartford City, Indiana

Dear Ms. Brown,

The City of Hartford City has been working toward the abandonment in question for nearly two years. The abandonment will help facilitate our future City plans and will allow us, following Railroad approval, to connect an existing roadway (Wabash Avenue) that currently ends on both sides of the tracks. This connection will allow for faster emergency response for our fire, police and other emergency vehicles and provide for a much faster connection to our hospital on the north side of the City. The connection will also provide for a much needed connection for our schools, Business Park and our citizens in general.

We are not opposed to a trail through this corridor and our proposed road crossing will not eliminate the possibility of a future trail. We do, however, respectfully request that the Board not delay the abandonment. We have a contractor available for the needed improvements and any delays can impact the safety and betterment of our community. Any efforts made to expedite this abandonment would be greatly appreciated.

Feel free to contact our office if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
City of Hartford City

Ben Hodgin
Mayor

Cc: Mr. Keith Bryant, United Consulting
LaWada Poarch, Abandonments Coordinator, Norfolk Southern Corporation