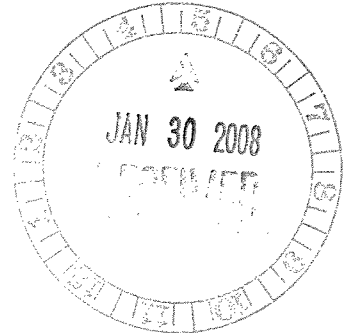


These trains could experience longer travel times and increased delays as a result of this transaction. The cities along the route will be negatively impacted if the service quality deteriorates on this route. Also, since passengers connect between these trains and other trains at Chicago, deteriorated service on this corridor will impact passenger trains serving the entire country.

Therefore, I request that the Surface Transportation Board make the establishment of a new route, of like or better quality, a condition of the merger. Building a new connection at Grand Crossing, combined with enhancements to the Norfolk Southern track into Union Station, is the only viable solution.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

thomas reiser
box 5203
chicago, IL 60680



Surface Transportation Board

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