



Galveston Fire Department

MEMORANDUM

To: Dan Buckley, Deputy City Manager
From: Fire Chief Mike Wisko
Date: 10-15-18
Re: Proposed Rail Crossing

In response to the June 15, 2018 letter from the Surface Transportation Board (STB), we have been working with Texas International Terminals (TIT) to better understand the impacts of the proposed rail lines for the Texas Railway Exchange (TREX). The TIT facility currently deals in ethanol, crude oil, and fertilizer using both rail lines and cargo ships.

Our primary concern has been that the proposed rail line would be built in/on existing wetlands under a major thoroughfare (Spur 275), which feeds our Level One Trauma Center, industrial corridor, the majority of our shipping industry, and Texas A&M Galveston Campus. The concern is that a rail car loaded with hazardous materials could be parked under the elevated portions of this thoroughfare. In addition, Emergency access to the proposed site will be limited due to terrain.

Through working with representatives from TIT and TREX, we have gained an expansive knowledge of the proposed plan. These representatives have shared their proposed Normal Operation plan and have proactively outlined their proposed response to address an event that may result in rail cars to be temporarily stationary under the Spur 275 elevated exchange. Based on the Operation plan outlined, as well as on-going discussions with the representatives, we have determined that their plans sufficiently address the concerns we have expressed. At this time, we have no unanswered concerns.

We do request that as this proposal moves closer to becoming a reality, TIT and TREX representatives, continue to work with our Department to review finalized proposals, to ensure that our concerns continue to be addressed in the proper manner.

Please feel free to contact me for any additional questions.





Galveston Fire Department

MEMORANDUM

