



Surface Transportation Board
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

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February 28, 2024
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February 28, 2024

The Honorable Katie Boyd Britt
502 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Britt,

Thank you for your recent letter regarding Application of the National Railroad Passenger Corporation Under 49 U.S.C. § 24308(e)—CSX Transportation, Inc., and Norfolk Southern Railway Company, Docket No. FD 36496, and the return of Amtrak operations in the Gulf Coast region. We appreciate hearing your views about the importance of maintaining freight service fluidity and reliability along the Gulf Coast Corridor, and particularly for operations at the Port. We further appreciate your points about the ongoing costs of Amtrak's presence in Alabama and how those costs will be funded, outside of a Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements ("CRISI") grant.

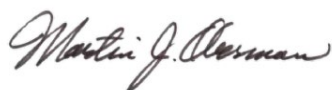
As you are aware, the Board held a public hearing in this matter on February 14, 2024, for the parties to report on the settlement status more fully. During the hearing, the parties told the Board that they are working toward a resolution of all outstanding issues, including the execution of a final funding agreement. The parties told the Board that they continue to work on design and construction plans so they can move forward with those plans when funding agreements and environmental reviews are finalized.

On February 26, 2024, the Board directed the parties to file a joint status report by March 15, 2024 addressing: (1) The status of the CRISI Grant Agreement, including when the Parties expect the Agreement to be finalized; (2) The status of the NEPA review related to the Mobile Station Track Project, as well as any other ongoing environmental review related to the CRISI Grant Agreement or any other federal funding; and (3) The status of Amtrak's negotiations with Mobile related to the land use agreement and the operating agreement, including whether Amtrak has provided Mobile with a final estimate of operating costs for which it seeks state or local funding.

After receiving the March 15, 2024 status report, the Board will determine what if any further steps it will require with respect to updates on status. If, by May 1, 2024, the Parties have not notified the Board that their settlement has been fully implemented and requested dismissal of this proceeding, and if the Board has not otherwise ordered additional actions, the Parties will be required to file an additional joint status report on that date that includes an update on the information described above. In the meantime, the Board will hold the proceeding in abeyance.

Thank you again for sharing your views about future Amtrak operations in the Gulf Coast region with the Board. A copy of your letter and this reply have been placed in the docket on the Board's website. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Janie Sheng, Director of the Board's Office of Public Assistance, Governmental Affairs, and Compliance, at 202-245-0238.

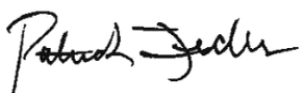
Sincerely,



Martin J. Oberman
Chairman



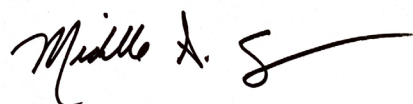
Karen J. Hedlund
Vice Chairman



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