



Norfolk Southern Corporation

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February 2, 2024

The Honorable Martin J. Oberman
Chairman
U.S. Surface Transportation Board
395 F Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423

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Office of Proceedings
February 2, 2024
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Public Record

RE: Docket No. EP 774 (Sub-No 1, Notice of Passenger Rail Advisory Committee Vacancies)

Dear Mr. Chairman:

On behalf of Norfolk Southern Corporation and our operating subsidiary, Norfolk Southern Railway Company (NS), I am pleased to submit for your consideration the nomination of Michael McClellan, to be a member of the Surface Transportation Board's (STB) Passenger Rail Advisory Committee (PRAC). Mr. McClellan is nominated to serve as a representative of Class I freight railroad, as outlined in the notice soliciting nominations to the PRAC.

Mr. McClellan has over 25 years with NS, and currently serves as the Senior Vice President and Chief Strategy Officer for NS. In his role current role, Mr. McClellan is responsible for leading the company's strategic planning organization. The strategic planning organization reviews, approves and negotiates the commencement of new and expanding passenger or commuter service which operates on the NS rail network. This includes the preliminary discussions of new services with state and Amtrak officials who seek to inaugurate these services, conducting a Rail Traffic Control (RTC) modeling assessment of the impact of any new or expanding service on current and future freight rail traffic, as well as the development of infrastructure solutions that negate any impacts the passenger services may have on the fluidity and capacity of the NS freight network.

Prior to joining NS, Mr. McClellan had ten years of railroading experience at Conrail and in consulting roles at Ernst & Young. He is a recognized leader in rail transportation and serves on a variety of professional boards, including The Transportation Research Board, DrayNow and a founder of RailPulse, as well as his leadership with various non-profit organizations.

Mr. McClellan and his team have successfully led NS negotiations with state sponsors of rail passenger services. Most notably, this includes the successful launch of Amtrak service to and from Norfolk, VA. Most recently, he led a successful negotiation with the Commonwealth of Virginia to expand and add additional Northeast Corridor service to and from Roanoke. Mr. McClellan also led the negotiations with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to initiate additional Pennsylvanian train service between Harrisburg and Pittsburgh.

NS has a solid record of success in launching new passenger services onto its rail network. As outlined above, NS's collaboration with state transportation leaders and Amtrak has seen over 14 new daily passenger trains successfully introduced onto the NS network over the last decade. This includes 4 additional daily trains serving North Carolina, and 10 additional daily trains in Virginia. The second Pennsylvanian service and the new Gulf Coast service will bring this to 20 additional daily trains launched across the NS network.

Finally, NS expects a significant amount of discussion and analysis in coming years as we evaluate the network impacts from the FRA-awarded Corridor ID projects. NS is the Class I with the highest number of awarded Corridor ID projects, with 25 of the 69 nationwide projects having a potential route on the NS freight network.

Given the breadth of the PRAC's mission to support the STB's policy and decision-making roles on passenger rail issues, Mr. McClellan's distinguished experience and record of success will provide valuable insight in ensuring the successful initiation and expansion of passenger rail service across the United States.

I have confirmed with Mr. McClellan his understanding of the PRAC and the responsibilities of membership. He is enthusiastic about this opportunity and fully understands that if selected, there will be a substantial commitment of time and that there is no compensation or reimbursement provided to members of the PRAC. He has the full endorsement of NS' President and CEO, Alan Shaw, with respect to pursuing this nomination. I can assure you of NS' commitment to be a full partner with the STB and the PRAC in supporting the development rail passenger services.

Mr. McClellan's contact information is as follows:

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Senior Vice President & Chief Strategy Officer
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In the STB's announcement soliciting nominations, the Board indicated that membership on the PRAC would be limited to 2 representatives from a Class I freight railroad. Recognizing that there may be multiple nominations from the other Class I railroads, NS would respectfully request that Mr. McClellan's nomination also be considered for one of the at-large designations. I appreciate your consideration of Mr. McClellan's qualifications and commitment for the PRAC. Should you require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me or Mr. McClellan directly.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Thomas E. Zoeller". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Thomas" being the most prominent part.

Thomas E. Zoeller
General Counsel, Markets & Regulation