



EI-31668

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December 30, 2021

Joshua Wayland, Surface Transportation Board, c/o VHB  
Attention: Environmental Filing, Docket No. FD 36500  
940 Main Campus Dr., Suite 500  
Raleigh, NC 27606

Mr. Wayland,

We have been fortunate to have Canadian Pacific as a partner in our community. The merger of KCS and CP will add an additional anticipated 14 projected trains running through our community each day. We are hopeful that the merger will result in strengthening our existing rail infrastructure to address needs that will arise from the merger. Our community has three at-grade crossings (McCleary, Dunbar & Italian Way) and three overhead crossings (10 Highway/Kearney Road, Wornall and Titus).

The at-grade crossing on McCleary has been the site of fatal accidents in the past. With the potential of a blocked crossing, there is concern that this will create an unsafe roadway due to traffic backups on the southbound lane of traffic. There is a small hill which eliminates visibility and if traffic is backed up could create issues. Northbound traffic would be forced to stop on a significant grade to wait on railcars to pass that could create an unsafe condition in adverse weather.

The railroad bisects our community and is the point at which our census tracks meet. The census tract on the east is a Census tract that qualifies as "Persistent Poverty". Our residents on this side of town that don't drive are utilizing Kearney Road to walk to their essential services. This would include physicians, pharmacies, groceries and education services including the public library where many go to access the internet. We would encourage a review of pedestrian access along 10 Highway to address the safety concerns that arise when walkers are forced to move into oncoming traffic to walk under the railroad bridge. This includes residents using electric wheelchairs. The City has applied recently for a RAISE grant that would create a walk path along Kearney Road and Jesse James Road. We did not receive the grant however we continue to be willing to partner to address this issue. We will reapply for this grant in July.

Our fire station, located at 1120 Tracy, is on the west side of town. With additional rail traffic, there is concern that the potential blocked crossing at Dunbar Street would impede emergency responders' access to the east end of town. Our two railroad overhead crossings closest to Dunbar are one lane

access and somewhat difficult for emergency vehicles to drive through. Wornall Street overhead railroad was built in such a way that it only allows one lane traffic and you have to approach the underpass blindly. This is also a point of conflict for children walking to school as they are forced to walk under the railroad bridge into oncoming traffic in what is already a dangerous situation.

Our request is that we open conversation about addressing the infrastructure impediments that need to be addressed to strengthen our rail access through our community. We know that Canadian Pacific is working hard to be a good neighbor, and we look forward to positive conversations that address the necessary improvements of this increased traffic.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sharon Powell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Sharon" and last name "Powell" clearly distinguishable.

Sharon Powell  
Mayor

## McCleary Road

### Southbound



### Northbound



## Kearney Road

### Eastbound



### Westbound



**Kearney Road/10 Highway Westbound**



**Wornall Road**

**Westbound**



**Eastbound**



### Northbound



**Italian Way**

**Westbound**



**Eastbound**

