

May 18, 2021

Ms. Cynthia T. Brown
Chief, Section of Administration
Office of Proceedings
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

RE: Docket No. FD 35068, *Soo Line Railroad Company d/b/a Canadian Pacific Railway – Acquisition and Operation Exception – BNSF Railway Company*

Dear Ms. Brown:

This letter is submitted on behalf of the City of Minot, North Dakota (City) regarding Docket No. FD 35068. The City has been contacted by CP Rail regarding this docket and they have expressed their concerns regarding the impact of interchange traffic between CP Rail and BNSF and the effect on the City.

CP Rail has stated that unit train service is being requested by New Century Ag and that the transfer of unit trains between CP Rail and BNSF would occur through the middle of the City. When this transfer occurs, seven at grade crossing will be blocked by the transfer for a time period of 35 minutes to an hour.

When this transfer occurs, the crossings would be placed out of service for pedestrians and vehicles for up to an hour. This transfer would have a severe, negative impact on the City and its citizens. The downtown portion of the City, which this would affect contains a regional medical center, a fire station, the Ward County sheriff's office and jail, a middle school, and hundreds of businesses that rely on transportation access.

This transfer through Minot would cripple the transportation network, causing the detour of 1000s of vehicles during each transfer. Emergency first responders which include ambulance, fire, police, and sheriff personnel will have in some instances a 1.5 mile detour costing minutes in response times which will impact our citizen's lives. In many medical and fire emergencies every minute counts for a positive patient and victim outcome. For every minute a brain goes without oxygen that positive outcome decreases exponentially and at 8 minutes there is less than a 10% chance of survivability. Fire stations are placed strategically around a community because of the need for quick response times.

In addition to being contracted by CP Rail, the City reached out to BNSF to understand their position on this issue. BNSF has indicated that the ideal transfer location is a siding owned by CP Rail east of Minot. This transfer location would have a significantly smaller impact on the City. All transfer activities would occur outside the City and not have an effect on any at grade crossings.

The City urges the Surface Transportation Board to find a solution that keeps the safety and well-being of our citizens at the forefront, provides an option of transfer outside the City, while providing the unit train capability for industry.

Very Respectfully,

Shaun Sipma

Mayor, City of Minot

CC: Senator John Hoeven
Senator Kevin Cramer
Congressman Kelly Armstrong

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