



Houston City Council Member Twila Carter
At-Large, Position 3

October 24, 2025

The Honorable Patrick J. Fuchs
Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423

Subject: Support for Union Pacific and Norfolk Southern Merger

Dear Chairman Fuchs:

As a member of the Houston City Council, I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed merger between Union Pacific and Norfolk Southern railways. This merger represents a strategic opportunity to strengthen our national rail network and deliver significant economic and logistical benefits to the City of Houston.

Houston is one of the nation's most important transportation and logistics hubs. Our economy depends on efficient rail service to move goods to and from our ports, refineries, and manufacturing centers. The combination of Union Pacific's western network with Norfolk Southern's eastern routes would create a more seamless, coast-to-coast rail system—enhancing connectivity for Houston's industries, reducing supply chain bottlenecks, and improving overall service reliability.

Additionally, the merger is expected to generate local economic growth through increased freight efficiency, job creation, and reduced congestion on our highways as more goods move by rail. This is a win for our city's economy, our environment, and the millions of Texans who benefit from a stronger transportation infrastructure.

For these reasons, I urge the Surface Transportation Board to approve the Union Pacific–Norfolk Southern merger. It is an investment in the future of American commerce and a clear benefit for the people of Houston.

Should you have any questions, please contact me at 832.393.3250 or Twila.Carter@houstontx.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in red ink that reads "Twila Carter".

Council Member Twila Carter
At-Large, Position 3