

March 8, 2022

TO: Members of the Surface Transportation Board

RE: Support for the Merger of Canadian Pacific with Kansas City Southern Railroad

We respectfully submit this letter of support on behalf of the Shreveport-Bossier Convention and Tourist Bureau for the merger of Canadian Pacific with Kansas City Southern railroad, aligning with our full support of the Southern Rail Commission's proposal for passenger rail along the I-20 Corridor. This proposed service will connect our communities in Northern Louisiana to new regions and economies in Dallas-Fort Worth and Atlanta – and beyond to Washington, D.C., and New York City through connections with Amtrak's Texas Eagle, City of New Orleans, and Crescent trains.

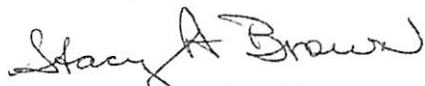
We also fully support the partnerships anticipated between the freight and passenger rail community with Canadian Pacific as the future owner. Our region formed an engaged coalition of local officials and stakeholders that includes the Southern Rail Commission and the Ark-La-Tex Corridor Council who support this I-20 Corridor long-distance service.

Furthermore, the infrastructure bill recently approved by Congress commits new funding allocations for passenger rail that could potentially be available for any required capital investment, and previous studies have indicated that this economically viable route along the I-20 Corridor would require no subsidies for operations.

The majority of our visitors to Shreveport-Bossier travel here by vehicle via the I-20 corridor. The availability of rail along this route would increase our ability to drive more tourism from these key markets thereby enhancing the economic impact on our community.

We request that you rule favorably on the merger of Canadian Pacific and Kansas City Southern as it moves our region one step closer to fulfilling the vision of connecting the I-20 Corridor with passenger rail service.

Thank you for your consideration,



Stacy A Brown, President
Shreveport-Bossier Convention and Tourist Bureau