



CITY OF HOUSTON

PRESS RELEASE

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STATEMENT ON FEDERAL APPROVAL OF CANADIAN PACIFIC, KANSAS CITY SOUTHERN RAILROAD MERGER

Today the federal Surface Transportation Board (STB) cleared the way for a merger between Canadian Pacific (CP) and Kansas City Southern (KCS) railroads. Council Member Robert Gallegos issued the following statement on the decision:

“I’m extremely disappointed by the STB’s decision to allow this merger to proceed. The community’s quality of life has been affected in many ways by increasingly busier railroad tracks and this merger will make things worse by funneling eight more trains per day through an already congested Houston rail network. Even more troubling is that CP-KCS has proposed no capacity projects or mitigation investments in Houston. This will lead to further congestion and exacerbate adverse impacts across numerous communities.

“Last September, I testified in opposition to the merger before the STB in Washington D.C. The following month, I hosted STB board members and staff here in Houston to show them the problems our community faces today with the current train traffic levels. From impacts on public safety, mobility, air quality, and noise, the issues are real and they need to be addressed. And now that it’s given this merger the green light, the federal government should be prepared to resolve ongoing issues and merger-related problems by investing in solutions.

“The Norfolk Southern disaster in Ohio and other recent derailments across the country have also heightened the need for stronger federal oversight. Railroad companies cannot continue to go unchecked, unregulated, and unaccountable. We need congressional action to strengthen and enforce laws and policies regulating railroad operations. The health, safety, and mobility of Houston residents depend on their actions.”

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