

Johnson County Highway Department

1051 Hospital Road ♦ Franklin, Indiana 46131 ♦ Phone: (317) 346-4630 ♦ Fax: (317) 738-5378

Lucas M. Mastin
Director

Michael P. Pelham, P.E.
Engineer

August 22, 2011

Mr. Mark Wollschlager
HDR Engineering, Inc.
701 Xenia Avenue South, Suite 600
Minneapolis, MN 55416-3636

RE: CSXT - Acquisition and Upgrade of Louisville Indiana Railroad
Preliminary Draft Environmental Assessment Comments

Dear Mr. Wollschlager,

Johnson County has recently been informed of the possible rehabilitation of the existing Louisville Indiana Railroad line between Louisville, Kentucky and Indianapolis, Indiana by CSX Transportation, Inc. (CSXT). It is our understanding that your firm is currently soliciting comments for inclusion in the Preliminary Draft Environmental Assessment (PDEA) document. While Johnson County was not directly contacted to provide comments for the PDEA being developed for this project, we would appreciate your consideration and inclusion of the following comments.

- It is our understanding that upgrades proposed by CSX Transportation, Inc. would allow the rail line to accommodate up to 15 trains per day in this area over the current train traffic volume at speeds up to 49 miles per hour. There are currently eight locations where the Louisville Indiana Railroad line crosses county roads within Johnson County's jurisdiction. All of these crossings are at-grade, not separated. Each of the crossings is stop-controlled for vehicular traffic through the use of stop signs. However, all of these crossings have sight-distance issues caused by substantial grade changes between the road and rail line elevations, or by poorly maintained vegetation along the fence lines delineating the railroad right-of-way. Prior to increasing the volume and speed of trains passing through these at-grade crossings, we would encourage CSXT to review these locations and take appropriate actions, whether through active crossing warning devices, adjustments in road grade, providing clear line-of-sight for vehicular traffic, or a combination of these and other solutions, to ensure that these crossings can continue to be operated safely by both train and vehicular traffic in the future.

- The Indianapolis Regional Transportation Council and the Indianapolis Metropolitan Planning Organization have identified the Louisville Indiana Railroad line as a key component for future passenger rail services in their Long-Range Regional Transportation Plan. While no details have been finalized at this time, we would ask that you consider this potential key component in the Indianapolis region's future

transportation plan in your PDEA. The transportation needs of the Indianapolis area will only continue to increase as the region grows, and passenger rail service will be a key component in meeting future travel demands.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments for the preparation of this project's PDEA. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or comments you may have. We look forward to working with you as your project moves forward.

Sincerely,

Johnson County Highway Department

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'LM', is written above a horizontal line.

Lucas M. Mastin, Director

Cc: Johnson County Board of Commissioners
File