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OFFICE OF CHAIRMAN

October 19, 2016

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October 31, 2016  
Part of  
Public Record

Mr. Randy Hunt  
NRPC Operations Officer  
Norfolk Southern Corporation  
Amtrak Operations, Box 158  
1200 Peachtree Street, NE  
Atlanta, GA 30309

Re: STB Ex Parte 726

Dear Randy,

I have received your letter of August 11, 2016, regarding the schedules of Amtrak trains operating on Norfolk Southern ("NSR"). Your letter says Amtrak has not demonstrated a willingness to adjust Amtrak schedules to achieve improved all station on-time performance ("ASOTP"). This statement overlooks schedule changes that Amtrak and NSR have made (and are presently discussing) to improve Amtrak ASOTP on NSR lines:

- Amtrak and NSR changed the *Capitol Limited* schedule to improve ASOTP in 2008 and 2009, when Amtrak proposed and NSR agreed to move recovery time within the route's schedule;
- When speed increases reduced running times on the *Crescent* in 2011, Amtrak proposed and NSR agreed to apply a portion of the time saved to increased recovery time at intermediate stations; and
- Amtrak and NSR are currently discussing Amtrak's proposal made in 2015 to adjust the *Pennsylvanian's* schedule, a primary purpose of which is to improve ASOTP.

Amtrak has been and remains willing to discuss all means of improving ASOTP, including reviewing schedules of Amtrak trains operating on NSR lines and reducing delays to Amtrak trains. NSR-responsible delays account for the large majority of delays to Amtrak trains while operating on NSR lines, and reducing such delays is key to improving ASOTP.

Amtrak is available to meet with NSR on October 25, 26, or 28, or November 4, 9, or 14 to discuss both schedules and reductions in NSR-responsible delays. Amtrak would be happy to host the meeting in Washington or Philadelphia. Please let me know which date(s) work best for NSR, and who from NSR you would like to have participate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Vilter".

Paul Vilter  
Deputy Chief, Host Railroads

CC: ✓ The Honorable Daniel R. Elliott III, Chairman, Surface Transportation Board  
The Honorable Deb Miller, Vice Chairman, Surface Transportation Board  
The Honorable Ann D. Begeman, Commissioner, Surface Transportation Board