



Surface Transportation Board
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

May 9, 2019

Mr. James Foote
President, and Chief Executive Officer
CSX Transportation, Inc.
500 Water Street
Jacksonville, FL 32202

Dear Mr. Foote:

We are writing to request an update on the rail operations of CSX Transportation, Inc. (CSXT) over the Elsdon Line (the Line) in the Chicago area. We are also interested in learning how your new operating plan, referred to as precision scheduled railroading, is impacting fluidity on the Line.

As you know, the Surface Transportation Board (Board) has monitored CSXT's operations over the Line since approving CSXT's acquisition of an operating easement and conveyance of related trackage rights in 2013.¹ The Board's approval was conditioned on a number of environmental mitigation measures, some of which CSXT proposed voluntarily, including measures to minimize blocked grade crossings. CSXT also represented that it would not operate trains over the Line unless the route is clear and CSXT's partner can accept the train without delay or interruption.

In response to a petition filed by local communities in 2016, the Board directed CSXT to submit monthly reports, beginning in June 2016, addressing blocked crossings, false gate activations, operating protocols and other matters concerning operations on the Line. The reporting period expired in July 2018. The reports indicated that, while CSXT had reduced the number of false activations, issues remained regarding the number and duration of blocked crossings. Accordingly, in July 2018, the Board requested that CSXT establish and provide a plan detailing additional actions that CSXT would take to improve fluidity and reduce the number and duration of blocked crossings. CSXT submitted its response in August 2018.

The Board remains interested in these matters. Earlier this year, we met separately with you and other CSXT senior officials to discuss rail operations on your network. We are now seeking an update on CSXT's operations on the Line in order to understand whether actions identified and implemented since your August 2018 response have been successful in improving fluidity and reducing blocked crossings. Please include in your response

¹ See *CSX Transp., Inc.—Acquis. of Operating Easement—Grand Trunk W. R.R.*, FD 35522 et al. (STB served Feb. 8, 2013).

current trend data regarding blocked crossings, including their cause, frequency, and duration. In addition, please report on specific actions CSXT has taken during 2019 to enhance train movement and bolster community engagement.

Thank you for your time and attention to this request. If you or your staff have any questions, please contact Ms. Lucille Marvin, Director of the Board's Office of Public Assistance, Governmental Affairs, and Compliance, at 202-245-0238.

Sincerely,



Ann Begeman
Chairman



Patrick Fuchs
Vice Chairman



Martin Oberman
Board Member