



Norfolk Southern Corporation
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Edward F. Boyle, Jr.
Vice President - Engineering
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The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Atlanta - April 1, 2022

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to express Norfolk Southern Railway Company's (NSR) support for the 2022 RAISE Grant Application for the replacement of the Wilcox Boulevard Bridge which crosses NSR's mainline tracks and DeButts Yard and also a CSX Transportation (CSXT) mainline track, near downtown Chattanooga, TN.

Due to age, condition, and configuration, the replacement of this bridge is a high priority for the City of Chattanooga, the State of Tennessee, and the railroads. We are working collaboratively with both the City and TNDOT to make sure this project receives priority for project review, preliminary engineering, and associated railroad approvals, to ensure a timely and successful replacement project.

This project requires an unequalled amount of cooperation and coordination between NSR, CSXT, the bridge engineering team, the bridge contractor, the City, and TNDOT. The NSR DeButts Yard is one of four (4) major Classification Yards on the NSR system. Everyday this yard handles a wide variety of commodities including Agricultural projects, Chemicals and Metals, Construction Materials, and general merchandise. The traffic moving through Chattanooga connects the Gulf Coast states, New Orleans, and Memphis with the rest of the NSR network. Chattanooga processes approximately 24% or 1,600 of the 7,000 cars processed every day on the NSR network. The Importance of this yard to our nation's freight network and the supply chains NSR supports cannot be underestimated.

In addition to community connectivity, the Wilcox Boulevard Bridge also provides the only ingress and egress into numerous parts of the interior working facilities of DeButts Yard, including our car repair shop, mechanical facilities, and other yard offices. Maintaining this access is critical. Because of this, and the extensive daily rail activity that occurs under the existing bridge, a new-build replacement bridge is warranted. NSR believes it is extremely important to have USDOT's financial support for this true public private partnership between the railroads, TNDOT, and the City of Chattanooga. Through this letter NSR is committing support for a railroad contribution of up to \$10.0 MM toward the replacement of the Wilcox Boulevard Bridge, as reflected in the project budget that accompanies the grant application narrative. The parties have also agreed that after completion of the new Wilcox Boulevard Bridge the City of Chattanooga will take full ownership of the new structure.

We appreciate being a part of this true partnership and look forward to it being favorably considered during your review.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'E. F. Boyle, Jr.' with a stylized flourish at the end.

Edward F. Boyle, Jr.
Vice President - Engineering