



Keith Creel  
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Dr. Shawn Wilson  
Secretary  
Louisiana Department of Transportation  
1201 Capitol Access Road  
Baton Rouge, LA, 70802

Dear Secretary Wilson,

I understand and appreciate the State of Louisiana's interest in passenger operations both between New Orleans and Baton Rouge as well as from Meridian to Shreveport and on toward Dallas. I am writing to you to provide CP's perspective and position on these proposed passenger operations.

I think it is important to know that CP has a proven track record of co-operating and operating passenger trains on its network. In particular, our intercity track record is second to none when it comes to Amtrak. We are the top performing Amtrak host railroad for 5 years in a row and we are the first to complete 100% certification of our Amtrak schedules. When we look at the proposal for a new service between New Orleans to Baton Rouge, CP can't speak for KCS but if we were to be successful in its proposal acquire the KCS we would be supportive of working with all stakeholders to introduce passenger service between New Orleans to Baton Rouge.

With our proven track record of co-operation and performance we are the best potential operator to enable this service to become a reality. I will note that the CN proposal would have the KCS divesting its operation between New Orleans and Baton Rouge – but the CN would retain trackage rights on the operation. The complexity the CN acquisition brings and the unknowns it introduces would seem to significantly jeopardize a successful Amtrak operation never mind implementing the service in a reasonable timeline. We also believe that the line has ongoing capital needs and if we are successful we would be in a strong position to ensure the level of maintenance is up to a mainline standard that would efficiently support both freight and passenger operations.

In looking at Meridian to Shreveport to Dallas – again I can't speak for KCS. If successful, CP would be committed to reviewing and participating in studies with the goal of introducing a train pair in this corridor. I will note that the line between Meridian and Shreveport is a joint venture between KCS and NS called the Meridian Speedway LLC so we would need NS support to make commitments to the service. I will also note that past work identified the UP route from Shreveport to Dallas as the preferred option and so the UP is also an important stakeholder to engage.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Keith Creel". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "K".

Keith Creel  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Canadian Pacific

cc: The Honorable John Bel Edwards, Governor of Louisiana  
William J. Flynn, Chief Executive Officer, Amtrak  
Southern Rail Commission