City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: JUNE 8, 2015

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: MARK B. JINKS, CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: CITY OF ALEXANDRIA - NORFOLK SOUTHERN MEETING SUMMARY, JUNE 3, 2015

On June 3 City staff and the Mayor traveled to Norfolk to meet with senior management of Norfolk Southern (NS) to address the City's concerns regarding the proposed ethanol transloading facility capacity expansion and enhancements.

Present at the meeting from Norfolk Southern were: James A. Squires (newly appointed CEO of NS as of June 1, 2015) and James A. Hixon, Executive VP, Law and Corporate Relations. Representing Alexandria were the Mayor, Yon Lambert, Bill Skrabak and myself.

The objectives of the meeting were: (1) to provide a background and history of the transloading operations in Alexandria for the benefit of Mr. Squires, (2) discuss the City's significant concerns about the proposed expansion at this facility, (3) brief NS on the City's Eisenhower West Small Area Plan, and (4) request NS cooperation to reconsider its prior rejection of the City's proposed multimodal bridge that would potentially be located over NS's property at the transloading facility.

City staff provided a brief overview of the background and history of the Alexandria ethanol facility, the City's long standing opposition to the facility, and information about the surrounding uses that are incompatible with an ethanol transloading facility, especially residential properties, the elementary school and neighboring public park. The City thanked NS for including City staff in the review of the concept plan for the expansion and reiterated the need for additional safety enhancements that City staff requested during its April 29 meeting with NS. NS confirmed its intention to have the City's Code Administration and Fire Departments be involved in the review of the facility design and safety features for the expanded operations, but said that the City's requested added safety enhancements would need to pass "cost-benefit" consideration. Also, per the City's request, NS tentatively agreed to send NS staff to meet with both Cameron Station Civic Association and Summer's Grove homeowners to explain the expansion plan prior to proceeding with construction. NS reiterated that the proposed expansion would help address some of the quality of life issues that the community has raised, especially in reducing noise from nighttime train operations.

The City also briefed NS on the Eisenhower West Small Area Plan planning process and current concept plan that includes consideration of millions of square feet of new development in the area. Background information and rationale for why the multimodal bridge is being proposed over NS property was discussed. The City expressed its disagreement about NS's initial position that the multimodal bridge

could not be located over their property. NS indicated that its initial response was a reflexive protection of its right-of-way. The City requested, and NS agreed, to continue to share information and discuss the issue further to determine if a workable solution to the City's satisfaction could be developed regarding the feasibility of this bridge.

Overall, the meeting was constructive and there was a mutual agreement to continue to keep the lines of communication open.

If you have any questions, please contact Yon Lambert at (571) 220-0842 or Bill Skrabak at (703) 906-6647.

cc: Members, Local Emergency Planning Committee
Members, Eisenhower West Small Area Plan Steering Committee
Emily Baker, Deputy City Manager
Yon Lambert, Director, Transportation & Environment Services
Robert Dubé, Fire Chief
Bill Skrabak, Deputy Director, Infrastructure/Environmental Quality