City of Alexandria, Virginia
301 King Street, Suite 2300
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

William D. Euille
Mayor

City Hall: (703) 746-4500
Home: (703) 836-2680
Fax: (703) 838-6433
william.euille@alexandriava.gov

October 22, 2012

Mr. Quintin C. Kendall, Regional Vice President
State Government Affairs
CSX Transportation, Inc.
108 North 8th Street
Richmond, VA 23219

Dear Mr. Kendall:

This is to bring to your attention multiple citizen complaints the City of Alexandria has received relating to the CSX maintenance project to replace cross-ties and surface tracks between Alexandria and Woodbridge.

Previously, CSX has worked in partnership with the City in an effort to notify the affected public of planned projects. Unfortunately, public outreach has not been administered for this project, resulting in the public being caught unaware of the activity or duration of the noise impact. You may recall that in 2009, CSX conducted an outreach effort that included mailing post cards to residents, hosting a community meeting, notifying and coordinating with the City to send notices of the project activities via e-news lists, newsletters, and bulletin boards, and placed advertisement in local newspapers for its bridge replacement construction project. This outreach resulted in a smooth execution of the project in which the public was kept informed of the progress and the schedule, avoiding potential residential complaints.

The City requests that CSX immediately explore all options and conduct public outreach before a project is implemented. We recognize the safety aspects that may arise, but request that options be explored to do this work during day time hours in order to prevent noise issues at night. However, if nighttime work is absolutely essential, there may be specific guidance to the train operators not to use horns any more than absolutely necessary.

The City remains dedicated to working with CSX and expect reciprocity in this regard. Please contact me or William Skrabak at 703-746-4065 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

William D. Euille
Mayor

cc: The Honorable Members of City Council
Rashad M. Young, City Manager
Mark Jinks, Deputy City Manager
Richard J. Baier, P.E., LEED AP, Director, T&ES
Christopher P. Spera, Esq., Deputy City Attorney
William J. Skrabak, Deputy Director, Office of Environmental Quality