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Strategic Planning  
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John V. Edwards  
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February 21, 2012

Via email only

Paul F. Morris  
Deputy Secretary for Transit  
North Carolina Department of Transportation  
1501 Mail Service Center  
Transportation Building  
Raleigh, NC 27699-1501

Re: Proposed Red Line Commuter Project

Dear Paul

We have followed with interest and concern the recent campaign to introduce "Red Line" commuter service on the Norfolk Southern-owned rail line between Charlotte and Mooresville. Norfolk Southern stands ready to study with NCDOT and CATS the introduction of commuter rail service on the Norfolk Southern O Line. Although I cannot now anticipate the eventual conclusions of such a study, Norfolk Southern commits to ensuring that any new study is based upon realistic operating, financial and regulatory assumptions.

Having said that, Norfolk Southern cannot support the current "Red Line" plan proposed by NCDOT for use of Norfolk Southern's property. The "Red Line" plan is fatally flawed and based upon assumptions about the projected freight use of the O Line that are no longer valid. For those reasons, the current proposal is not feasible and does not constitute a starting point for further discussions. The JPA development process, therefore, is premature and will not lead to an accelerated construction schedule.

If NCDOT wishes to pursue some form of commuter rail on Norfolk Southern's "O" Line, Norfolk Southern will be ready to begin the study based upon updated freight operating assumptions, and the correct financial, tax, liability and regulatory models. This process is not short or easy. It will be an expensive process for NCDOT. But we will work with you to ensure that together we get it right.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "John V. Edwards", written over a white background.

John V. Edwards

Paul F. Morris  
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cc: Distribution List

Distribution List

The Honorable John Woods, Mayor of Davidson, Chair  
The Honorable Jeff Tarte, Mayor of Cornelius  
The Honorable Jill Swain, Mayor of Huntersville  
The Honorable Anthony Foxx, Mayor of Charlotte  
The Honorable Harold Cogdell Jr, Mecklenburg County Commissioner, Chair  
The Honorable Bill Thunberg, Lake Norman Transportation Commission  
The Honorable Miles Atkins, Mayor of Mooresville  
Carolyn Flowers, CATS Chief Executive Officer