



Government Relations Department
650 W. Peachtree Street NW
Atlanta, GA 30308

December 1, 2023

Bill Nash, PE
Director of Public Works & Utilities
Hall County Government
2875 Browns Bridge Road
Gainesville, GA 30504

SUBJECT: Northeast Georgia Inland Port/White Sulphur Rd. at-grade crossing

Mr. Nash,

I am asking for the County's support in permanently closing the at-grade crossing in Hall County at the northernmost crossing of White Sulphur Road, DOT# 717784N, as it intersects the Norfolk Southern tracks. It is understood that the crossing must remain for some time as the new Inland Port facility is constructed. As the facility begins operations, the crossing as it exists today, would be periodically, yet consistently, blocked by trains moving in and out of the facility. Projections are that 1-2 trains per day will enter the facility from the South and that these operations will go 5-6 days per week. Each train would likely block the crossing during normal switching operations for 45 minutes up to 2 hours. These are minimum projections that would likely increase with future facility growth.

Beyond the safety benefits of closing this crossing, there are benefits to mitigating frustration by the traveling public of the crossing being blocked. Roadway improvements to allow for access to other crossings, while closing the subject crossing before the facility begins operations helps to ensure that blockage issues are mitigated before they begin. Many of our most-blocked crossing locations that cause the most grief are right outside of terminals, very much like the White Sulphur Rd. crossing will be. Switching must occur, so there are often no feasible solutions to not blocking these types of crossings on a regular basis. We ask for the County's support in helping to solve an issue before it becomes one.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'William F. Milk'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long, sweeping tail that extends to the right.