

INFORMATION GATHERING and PROJECT OVERVIEW OPEN HOUSE

Pittsburgh Vertical Clearance Projects

City of Pittsburgh, Boroughs of Swissvale, Braddock and North Braddock,
Allegheny County, Pennsylvania

JUNE 26, 2018

Comment Form

Purpose of this Comment Form - This form provides the opportunity for the public to identify issues, provide comments, and scoping input regarding the nine (9) proposed Pittsburgh Vertical Clearance Projects. The project team is interested in your opinion of the potential impacts to your neighborhood relating to the proposed projects. The information will be used for scoping and development of the appropriate environmental analysis of effects and documentation under State History Code and Section 2002/Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Act 120, and related requirements. Due to the complexity of the project development process many factors must be weighed in making decisions on the projects and it must be understood that the comments provided are for consideration purposes.

Project Purpose:

The primary purpose of these clearance projects is to modernize both the rail and roadway networks in the City of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County to allow for double-stack intermodal trains along NSRC's Pittsburgh Line and Fort Wayne Line. The railroad's business is connected to jobs, economics, environmental benefits, and more efficient delivery of goods. NSRC's intermodal business is one way we are working to achieve a long-term sustainable balance between our business needs and the impact of railroad operations on the environment. Replacing, removing, or modifying these nine facilities to allow sufficient clearance for double stack intermodal freight trains will create a safer, more reliable and environmentally beneficial transportation network for both NSRC and the surrounding communities. Containers often are loaded two high, or "double-stacked," to allow twice as many shipments to be moved on one intermodal train. This saves customers money, enhances transportation efficiencies, and supports NSRC's conservation efforts by saving fuel and reducing emissions. On average, railroads are four times more fuel efficient than trucks. As a point of reference, one intermodal double-stack train can remove up to 300 trucks off congested highways. Not only does this mean less traffic for all, it means less pollution, improved fuel conservation, and less stress on highways—which reduces road repair costs.

DRAFT Project Need Statement:

The following transportation needs have been identified for these projects:

- improve reliability
- integrate modes of travel
- increased vertical clearance
- improve safety
- minimize future maintenance costs

Achievement of these needs should be achieved by applying a sound engineering approach of appropriate scale to address the transportation needs of these projects.

Alternatives:

Comment is requested regarding alternatives and ability to meet the purpose and need for the projects. Alternatives include the no action alternative, alternative route alternatives, and the proposed projects; as well as alternatives relating to the manner in which an alternative is constructed or developed. Alternatives should be reasonable and prudent, and meet the purpose and need.

