



June 12, 2024

Mike Cory
Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer
Corporate Headquarters
500 Water Street, 15th Floor
Jacksonville, FL 32202

Re: Safety Concerns at CSX Access Road, Arlington, Virginia

Dear Mr. Cory:

The Crystal City Civic Association (CCCA), on behalf of its residents, wishes to bring to your attention a serious safety issue at the CSX service road access entry at 12th Street and Crystal Drive, Arlington Virginia. We request you put up “*No Trespassing*” signs and ensure your employees and contractors close the gate.

In 2018 Arlington County approved an easement and permits for CSX to install an access gate and road at the corner of Crystal Drive and 12th Street South. At that time, the CCCA had no objection to this necessary access for CSX to maintain the tracks and construct the fourth rail line on the understanding that there would be a gate to prevent passersby from entering the access road and putting themselves in danger of being struck by a train.

In the last few years, residents have frequently called to the attention of CSX the danger caused by contractors working on the project who leave the 12th street access gates open when there is no one working there. Residents living nearby have noted frequent occasions of pedestrians, bikers, and now even scooters entering the access road. In early June several egregious examples occurred.

1. “One night I saw two single lights moving quickly on both sides and going across the rails in a pattern that looked like someone was playing. I

watched to see who came out of the gates, and it was two guys (maybe kids) on scooters.”

2. “Not longer after that, in the late afternoon, I saw two older woman walking their dogs along the rails.”
3. “One day, a couple walked out on the access road and stood watching close by as a train passed.”
4. “I have seen bicyclists enter the open gates and ride down a long ways on the access road near the tracks.”
5. “One day, I watched a couple with a toddler walk onto the access road, put the toddler down without holding his hand, and watch as a train passed by.”
6. On June 10 a CSX pickup truck entered the open gate, honked once at a pedestrian standing by the tracks to get out of his way, and then continued on down the service road without any concern.

These are just a few examples of non-workers being placed at risk because CSX workers fail to close the access gates. Given frequent notice of pedestrians being killed on railroad tracks, including the recent June incident of a family of three in Springfield, Virginia, we would assume CSX would be concerned. We certainly are. Moreover, this also appears to be a breach of agreement with the County for maintaining secure access to the service road across County park property.

In short, we are frustrated by the failure of CSX operations workers to maintain security at this location. We urge Management to take appropriate action by putting up several “*No Trespassing*” signs up on the gate and ensuring your employees and contractors close the access gates.

Respectfully,

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Eric Cassel".

Eric Cassel
President
Crystal City Civic Association

Cc:

Mark Schwartz, Arlington County Manager

Greg Emmanuel, Director, Arlington Department of Environmental Services

Brian Barton, Trainmaster, Passenger Operations, CSX

Randy Marcus, Director, State Relations - Virginia, West Virginia and DC, CSX