



*MAYOR'S REPORT  
TO THE COUNCIL AND CITIZENS OF GREENCASTLE  
PRESENTED: February 7, 2022*

**NORFOLK SOUTHERN LOCOMOTIVES IDLING UPDATE:** This health concern continues in Greencastle along N. Jefferson Street beside the Jerome R. King Playground. I continue to work with Congressman John Joyce' staff and request Council authorize another joint letter be sent, this time, to the new N/S CEO, Alan Shaw of Atlanta, GA, with our continued request for relief in using Greencastle as a lay-over site for idling diesel locomotives. Citizen Larry Pittman continues to log the idling time of 10, 12, 16 continues hours or longer. (see video). It appears the engine emissions code is in effect. Council, please consider joining the Mayor in filing a complaint with the Federal Environmental Protection Agency regarding diesel emissions emanating in the Borough. (Motion suggested)

EMAIL RESPONSES FROM N/S REGIONAL V.P. RUDY HUSBAND: Thank you for your emails. As we discussed, the track configuration through Greencastle requires southbound trains to periodically (not always) sit at a signal in Greencastle while waiting for northbound trains to pass. Another component of being able to move trains is crew availability. Under the federal Hours of Service law, train crew members can work up to 12 hours in a 24-hour period before they must be relieved. Unfortunately, Norfolk Southern is currently experiencing severe crew shortages throughout our 22-state network, which is the leading cause of train delays. The article linked below provides more detail regarding the current state of Norfolk Southern's operations. I can assure you that we are doing everything we can to make our operations more fluid, but it is going to take some time.

You should be aware that state and local laws that may affect the movement of interstate commerce, such as PA Act 124, generally do not apply to freight railroads as we are federally regulated.

due to the fact that the railroad is single-tracked on either side of Greencastle, under certain circumstances southbound trains must periodically wait at the signal for a northbound train to pass. Due to the location of the signal, we cannot move an idling train to another location because the engineer must be able to clearly see the signal.

## **RECENT CHESAPEAKE BAY JOURNAL HEADLINES:**

1. The Chesapeake Bay's three largest rivers – Susquehanna, Potomac, and James rivers are showing long-term reductions in nutrient pollution, according to data recently released by the U.S. Geological Survey; particularly notable was the Susquehanna River. Suspended sediment load is still “degrading.”
2. Pa. contents its new clean up plan will meet Chesapeake Bay goals by Dec. 31, 2025. Pa. is tasked to reduce the amount of nitrogen it sends to the Bay by 39.7 million pounds each year.
3. Greencastle's MS4 waiver letter qualification was dated May 12, 2020 and applies for a five year period and will expire May 11, 2025.

## **QUICK NOTES:**

2022 Greencastle Police (GPD) goals are to continue providing safety to our citizens, visitors, students and staff at the Greencastle-Antrim School campus as the town's population doubles Monday through Friday. Officers provide 24 hour a day service to the community

GPD (staff and mayor) continues to research grant opportunities for the Department for a license plate reader system that will better serve the citizens and officers for our safety. As we experience more and more criminal activity entering the Borough from outside sources, such a system would be pro-active in alerting GPD to suspicious vehicles. Today's police work requires technology. This is a great tool for police agencies that deploy its operation.

Respectfully submitted,

Ben Thomas, Jr. Mayor