

# *Louisiana Association of Railroad Passengers*

P.O. Box 57551 New Orleans, LA 70157

[www.larprail.org](http://www.larprail.org)

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08 September 2025

Norfolk Southern Corporation  
650 West Peachtree Street NW  
Atlanta, GA 30308


Dear Chief Dispatcher, Norfolk Southern,

On the evening of September 8, 2025, eastbound Amtrak Train 26 from New Orleans, Louisiana, to Mobile, Alabama was delayed by a malfunction of the Almonaster drawbridge. This malfunction delayed Train 26 for approximately an hour and a half. Train 26 resumed operation around 7:32PM CDT.

At the same time, the westbound Amtrak Train 25 from Mobile to New Orleans was approaching from the Michoud area. Train 26 passed Train 25 in the vicinity of Paris Road around 7:53PM. Meanwhile, southbound Train 19 was approaching New Orleans from New York where it met up with Train 25 on the New Orleans Back Belt around 8:09PM in the vicinity of New Orleans City Park. Train 25 was allowed to proceed to Union Passenger Terminal ahead of Train 19 presumably because Train 19 was early, Train 25 was slightly behind schedule, and Train 19 would need to cross the interlock before heading on to NOUPT trackage. Train 25 arrived at NOUPT at 8:29PM and Train 19 arrived at NOUPT at 8:30PM.

This is most likely the first time in the modern era when two passenger trains have arrived at NOUPT within a minute of each other. Though the riders of the Mardi Gras Service and the Crescent were probably unaware of the coordination and wherewithal of the NS Dispatch as well as the CSX Dispatch in bringing Train 25 as close to schedule as possible, dispatching of this caliber should be acknowledged and praised.

We thank you for your dedication to passenger rail,



John Adriani, Jr., Secretary

John Sita, Jr., President  
Andrew C. Lodriguss, Vice President  
Louis Bangma, Treasurer

cc: CSX Transportation, Rail Passengers Association, Southern Rail Commission, Dean Godell/LADoTD, Times-Picayune

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