

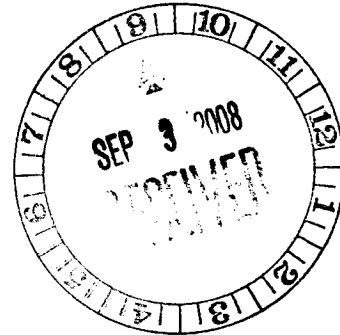
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S.T.A.R.T.

Solutions To Area Rail Traffic

September 3, 2008

The Honorable Anne K. Quinlan
Acting Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001



Re: Finance Docket No. 35087

Dear Secretary Quinlan:

On behalf of the 24 communities that comprise START (Solutions to Area Rail Traffic), we are formally requesting that the Surface Transportation Board hold hearings in communities inside of the EJ&E Arc (Inner-Arc).

Alternatively, we ask that the Surface Transportation Board provide staff to attend public hearings that START will conduct in the communities of South Holland and Buffalo Grove, Illinois. These hearings will be conducted in a format similar to the hearings that the STB is holding in the negatively impacted communities.

The municipal leaders of the positively impacted communities want to express our deep concern that the STB may have prejudiced the outcome of the Environmental Impact Statement public comment period by convening seven out of eight public hearings in negatively impacted communities, conveniently close to vocal opponents. Conversely, the only hearing in a positively impacted community is the September 8th hearing at Loyola University near downtown Chicago. Even this location is not convenient to residents in positively impacted Chicago neighborhoods as they must travel downtown to testify.

As a result, the members of the START coalition are compelled to attempt to level the playing field by hosting a hearing in the positively impacted communities. The START coalition has scheduled a hearing at the date, time and place listed on the following page. We respectfully request that the STB provide a staff person to brief the assembly on the proposed acquisition and a court reporter to record the testimony provided by witnesses.

Chairs:
President Wiaduck
Mayor Scheck
President Einhorn
Mayor Arredia
President Hartstein
President DeGraff

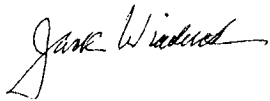
Honorary Co-Chair
Congressman Lipinski

Partners:
Berwyn
Bridgeview
Brookfield
Buffalo Grove
Cicero
Crete
Des Plaines
Elmwood Park
Franklin Park
Harwood Heights
Hillside
Homewood
Lyons
Melrose Park
Northfield
Northlake
North Riverside
River Forest
River Grove
Riverside
Schiller Park
South Holland
Stickney
Western Springs

September 10, 2008
South Holland Community Center
501 East 170th Street
South Holland, Illinois
5:00-8:00 PM

We will anxiously await your response to our request. For more information please contact Lenny Cannata or Tammy Wierciak at 708-453-9100.

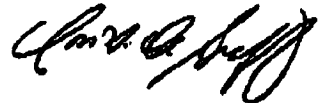
Sincerely,



Jack Wiaduck, President
Village of Riverside



Richard Scheck, Mayor
Village of North Riverside



Don DeGraff, President
Village of South Holland