

Bridges of Mokena Residents vs. Canadian National

Hello, my name is Brian Horvath, a resident of Mokena and representing the newly developed area called The Bridges of Mokena Townhomes, which is located west of 116th avenue and runs adjacent to the tracks.

“The Bridges” consist of 58 townhomes and nearly 130 single family homes which is currently half way through the phase of completion. Our concern, first and foremost, is for the safety of the residence in our community and all the communities that will be impacted by the sale or lease of the tracks to CN.

With an estimate of a 400% increase in train activity comes the added risk of derailments, pedestrian and vehicle accidents, transportation of hazardous cargo, both noise and air pollution, and the delayed response time of emergency vehicles due to blocked crossings.

Not to mention, the daily congestion this will add for the public to commute back and forth to work, school, church and other activities.

The propose plan will devastate growth, diminish the quality of life, severely impact the property values, adding the extra threat of disasters and tremendously elevating the risk of accidents.

My wife and I, and all our neighbors, purchased our townhomes within the past 2 years knowing that the rail line nearby was in operation approximately 6 times a day.

This proposed plan will increase the number to a minimum of 28 trains per day....that's more than 1 per hour.....a number no community should be burdened with.

Like my neighbors, we carefully considered this before we invested our equity and savings of 30 + years. We purchased our home because we sought a community that would be conducive for retirement living. Railroad tracks did precede our community, however; communities built up knowing the ramifications of a "Class II" regional railway NOT "Class I super highway trains".

Without any crossing gates, noise damping sound barriers, horn restrictions, and with the questionable safety record by Canadian National Rail Company; **we have good reason to be concerned especially with the Middle School ½ mile to the South of the tracks and the Old Plank Trail Bike Path ¼ mile to the North.**

The Bridges of Mokena, presently, is a quiet and peaceful community. Now, Canadian National wants to destroy all of our dreams and aspirations for THEIR financial gain.

In closing, we are asking for your help to avoid this tragedy to our community.