

13905



"Cyndi Soldano"
<cyndisold@comcast.net>
09/20/2008 09:34 AM

To <Congressional.Public.Services@stb.dot.gov>
cc
bcc
Subject The Canadian National and the EJ&E Expansion will destroy
our lives

The Canadian National is trying to purchase the existing EJ&E railroad tracks that run north and south through West Chicago and the surrounding communities in our area. What does this mean to our City and neighbors who live to our south and north?

Here are some eye-opening statistics recently released about what will happen if the sale of the EJ&E tracks to the Canadian National is approved:

- 1) The average number of daily trains in our area (north of the Union Pacific tracks) will **increase from 4.4 trains per day to 24.4 trains per day**. South of the UP line, the **increase will be from 10.7 to 34.5 trains per day**.
- 2) The Canadian National train lengths will be much longer than the current EJ&E trains, **up to two miles in length**. This means longer delays waiting for the trains to pass through the at-grade crossings.
- 3) The projected increase in the volume of train traffic and rail-related operations will result in more, and longer, blockages of the at-grade crossings in West Chicago and the surrounding communities.
- 4) Hazardous materials traffic on tracks in our end of town will **increase from 21 carloads per year to 265 carloads per year**, an **increase of 1,162%**. The increase south of the UP line will increase from **31 carloads per year to 301 carloads per year**, an **increase of 871%**.

How will this affect the average West Chicago resident?

- 1) The Metra trains could be delayed much more frequently because West Chicago has a rail crossing from the EJ&E rail line and the Union Pacific rail line in downtown West Chicago. If the CN rail traffic interferes

with the Metra trains, a late running Metra train will affect every town to our east and west. How many times will your boss allow you to use, "I was late again because of freight train interference"?

2) If you use Smith Road or Powis Road to get to Route 59 and/or North Ave or to go west using those routes, your chances of being stopped at the Powis Road at-grade crossing will **increase from 4.4 trains/day to 24.4 trains/day**. Thinking about using Army Trail Road instead? The EJ&E tracks run through the Village of Wayne as well.

3) For the **Cornerstone Lakes** neighborhood: If you think trying to drive to Norton Creek is hard now, imagine a two mile freight train in the morning or afternoon, backing up Smith Road traffic past Camden, creating grid lock in and out of the neighborhood and school parking lot.

Please help us maintain our healthy lifestyles

Thanks

Cyndi Soldano

West Chicago