

Linda R. Hovde
968 Williamsburg Park
Barrington, Illinois 60010
847/382-4379

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Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Dear Board Members:

I am writing to you in support of NOT allowing the high volume of freight trains to come through my hometown of Barrington with the proposed CN purchase of the EJ&E rail line.

As a Barrington Park Commissioner and a homeowner/mother it just isn't acceptable to increase the number of trains passing over our village streets and sidewalks. We are not designed for this high incidence of train traffic given the current schedule of 60ish Metra trains, 370+ school bus crossings, rush hour traffic on State Highway 14, pedestrians on our sidewalks and access to emergency sites.

Just this past summer the Barrington Park District opened a beautiful new Open Space Park, Citizens Park, which has the northern border delineated by the EJ&E rail line. The sidewalk access to this park from the northern neighborhoods crosses the railroad tracks at grade level and would pose a dangerous threat to children and families walking or bicycling to the park for tennis, basketball, hiking and such.

In addition, the EJ&E tracks run at the south end of Langendorf Park, which means that pedestrian access from the Village center must cross over the tracks at grade level, too! We would be inviting catastrophe to have so many freight trains crossing the pedestrian path used by community members to access the pool and baseball fields.

We all must work to find another solution. Find another rail path or get the trains off our streets by bridge or tunnel.

Thank you for joining this fight.

Linda R. Hovde
Commissioner, Barrington Park District