



CN EJ&E

Environmental Impact Statement

Scoping Comment for the Proposed Canadian National Railway Company Acquisition of the Elgin, Joliet and Eastern Railway Company STB Finance Docket No. 35087

Comment Form

How Do I Submit Comments?

- **Written Comments:** Complete and submit this form at the public open house scoping meeting, or follow the directions on the reverse side of this sheet to mail your comments.
- **Recorded Comments:** Provide your comments to a member of the project team or court reporter at this public open house scoping meeting, or call the toll-free project information line: 1-800-347-0689.
- **Electronic Comments:** Submit electronic comments by visiting the Surface Transportation Board's website, www.stb.dot.gov, under the heading "E-Filing."

Please refer to STB Finance Docket No. 35087 in all correspondence addressed to the Surface Transportation Board. Comments must be submitted by February 1, 2008.

My husband and I are charter members of The Illinois Prairie Path not-for-profit corporation, having joined in 1965, the year of incorporation under the laws of the State of Illinois. The Illinois Prairie Path was formed to develop, manage and protect as a multipurpose recreational and nature trail for the benefit of the people an abandoned railroad right-of-way 62 miles long in three counties on what was formerly the property of the Chicago, Aurora and Elgin (electric) Railway. The Illinois Prairie Path was named a National Recreation Trail in 1971 and is generally considered to be the first great railtrail in the United States. It generates an estimated 300,000 user-trips annually by bicyclists, joggers, hikers, equestrians, skiers, and nature lovers.

In recent years DuPage County, owner of the CA&E right-of-way within its borders, has taken over major maintenance of its portion of the Illinois Prairie Path and allocates approximately \$500,000, I believe, to this work annually. Please consult DuPage County Board Chairman Robert Schillerstrom and also Ms. Deborah Fagan, Senior Planner and Trail Liaison for DuPage County.

The proposed CN acquisition of the EJ&E Railway will adversely impact the Illinois Prairie Path at four locations where we believe the proposed greatly-increased freight traffic will endanger the lives of our many trail users and unacceptably impair their enjoyment of their trail experience. At one of these crossings DuPage County has built a prize-winning bridge over the railroad tracks (near Reed-Keppler Park in West Chicago, page 37 in your information brochure) providing a safe, grade-separated crossing for trail users. We expect this bridge to be preserved.

The other three crossings are at grade and we recommend the following grade separations for them which should take into account the maximum grade recommended for bicycle traffic:

1. South of Army Trail Road in Wayne, Elgin Branch of the Illinois Prairie Path (Page 33 of your information brochure) Recommend a bridge.
2. North of the East-West Toll Road, Batavia Spur of the Illinois Prairie Path (Page 43 of your information brochure). Either a bridge or an underpass.
3. South of the East-West Toll Road, west of Frontenac, Aurora Branch of the Illinois Prairie Path (Page 43 of your information brochure) Recommend an underpass.

Surface Transportation Board
CN-EJ&E EIS - FD-35087

Please consult my husband and I if you have any questions.

What scoping meeting did you attend? (Please circle): Mundelein, Barrington, Joliet, Matteson, Gary, West Chicago, Chicago.

Date Recd:
HDR File No.

Name: Jean C. Mooring

Address: 295 Abbotsford Court

City, State, Zip: Glen Ellyn, IL 60137 -

Date: January 18, 2008 4803

Telephone: (630) 469-4289

ATTACH.

YOUR INPUT IS IMPORTANT!

Comments provided by the public help determine the scope of the environmental review.

HDR



7th Edition
Trail Map



P.O. Box 1086, Wheaton, IL 60189
Web Page www.ipp.org



The **symbols in the three** circles suggest ways to enjoy the PATH - on foot, bicycle, or horseback.

The **inverted Y** forms a rough map of the PATH route: from First Avenue, Maywood, to Wheaton; then branching to Elgin and Aurora (with side spurs to Geneva and Batavia).

Passengers wait at the Army Trail Road Wayne station for an approaching Chicago Aurora and Elgin car. Note the third rail and the wide-open spaces



The **railroad spikes** indicate that the trail follows the right-of-way of the former Chicago, Aurora, and Elgin Railway, an electric line that carried commuters and freight between Chicago and the western suburbs as far as the towns along the Fox River from Elgin to Aurora. The CA&E suspended commuter operations in 1957 and freight operations in 1959. The right-of-way was finally abandoned in 1961.

is a 61-mile-long biking, hiking, jogging, equestrian, and nature trail in Cook, DuPage, and Kane Counties. The emblem shown here and on signs at road crossings provides several clues to the PATH'S origin and uses. They include railroad spikes arranged in an inverted Y and three circles.



THE ILLINOIS PRAIRIE PATH