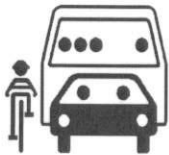


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WASHTENAW AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

705 NORTH ZEEB ROAD 2ND FLOOR
ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN 48103-1560
PHONE: (734) 994-3127 FAX: (734) 994-3129
WEBSITE: WWW.MIWATS.ORG
E-MAIL: WATS@MIWATS.ORG

January 16, 2007

Anne K. Quinlan, Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20423

Re: Docket # FD 35087 Canadian National Railroad acquisition of Elgin, Joliet & Eastern Railway Company

Ms. Quinlan,

The Washtenaw Area Transportation Study (WATS) is concerned about the above referenced STB filing because of its potential effect on time-competitive, safe passenger rail traffic connecting to Michigan from points West and South of the EJ&E line.

Canadian National has stated that it hopes to abandon portions of the existing line within the City of Chicago after the purchase is completed. This abandonment would cause further delays of service connecting passengers to Michigan and Washtenaw County.

WATS opposes the proposed transaction of the EJ&E line unless Canadian National agrees to fund both a new connection between the Canadian National and the Norfolk Southern Railroad (NS) at Grand Crossing, and additional capacity on the NS line between Grand Crossing and Union Station. This is the only viable way of providing a line of equal or better utility to replace the line Canadian National plans to abandon.

At a time when the American people are experiencing record gas prices, alternatives to air travel are critical for national security and our population is growing older, it is more important than ever for the Surface Transportation Board to assure time-competitive and safe passenger train service. WATS requests the STB consider adding the provision of the Grand Crossing flyover as well as additional capacity on the N-S line as a condition of any approval to help ensure reliable passenger rail service to the State of Michigan and Washtenaw County.

Sincerely,

Terri Blackmore

POLICY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

• CITY OF ANN ARBOR • ANN ARBOR TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY • ANN ARBOR TOWNSHIP • CITY OF CHELSEA • VILLAGE OF DEXTER •
• DEXTER TOWNSHIP • EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY • MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION • NORTHFIELD TOWNSHIP • PITTSFIELD TOWNSHIP •
• CITY OF SALINE • SCIO TOWNSHIP • SOUTHWEST WASHTENAW COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS • SUPERIOR TOWNSHIP • UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN •
• WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS • WASHTENAW COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION • CITY OF YPSILANTI • YPSILANTI TOWNSHIP •
• EX OFFICIO: FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION • SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS •

AN INTERMUNICIPALITY COMMITTEE ORGANIZED UNDER ACT 200 OF PUBLIC ACTS OF MICHIGAN (1957)
REPRESENTING WASHTENAW COUNTY