



Boone County Government

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March 22, 2016

Mr. Dave Navecky
Surface Transportation Board
Docket No. FD 35952
395 E. Street SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Dear Mr. Navecky:

We received your letter dated March 18th 2016 and appreciate the communication from the Surface Transportation Board regarding the Great Lakes Basin Rail Project.

We have also received communications regarding public hearing dates for those affected areas along the route and were surprised to learn there is no hearing date scheduled in Boone County given the last minute route change from Winnebago County. Our County Administrator, Ken Terrinoni, spoke to you on March 22nd and I am grateful that your agency was already considering a public meeting in Boone County sometime in April.

We learned of the route change when local media (CH 23) approached us in early February with a map showing the new route through Boone County and made a request for an interview. The original route, as we understood it went through Winnebago County up into Wisconsin, and was made known to our Regional Metropolitan Agency for Planning (RMAP) last fall and we had no indication that a route change was under consideration.

Naturally, as you would expect, residents began asking many questions expressing their concerns and attended our regular County Board and Committee meetings expecting answers from their local government about this project. Mr. Patton was kind enough to meet several of us in Winnebago County a few weeks ago and disclose more information about their project. However, without the ability to ask questions to the STB or the project organizers it will only increase the frustration of our citizens. Learning that you are already considering a Boone County location for a hearing is greatly appreciated. Please reach out to us if you are in need of help in organizing the logistics of the hearing.

Thank you for your time and I am sure we will be communicating often in the near future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bob Walberg".

Bob Walberg, Chairman
Boone County Board