

Source submitted this to me on their wire. Ron D

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Rails: Some worry this would mean end of STAR

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terms of the ability to handle freight train movement in a more efficient way," Labelle said.

Making tracks

Canadian National announced it intended to buy the Elgin, Joliet and Eastern Railway Co. for \$300 million in September from U.S. Steel Corp. The company first must obtain the blessing of the U.S. Surface Transportation Board and undergo an environmental analysis that could take from 18 months to a few years.

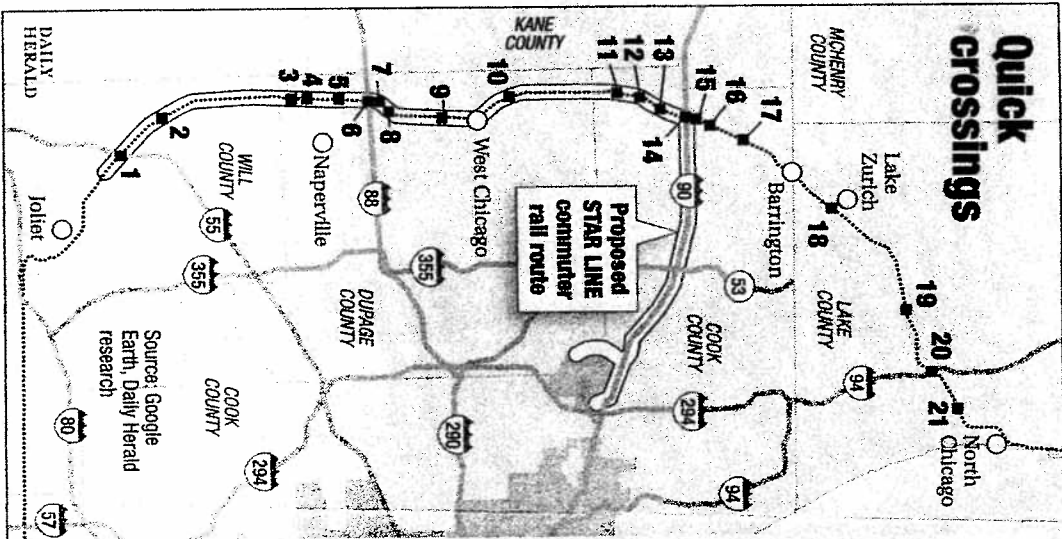
Board officials noted the environmental impact study was needed because of the traffic increases on certain lines. The first deadline for the public to comment on CN's proposal is Jan. 28.

The EJE, makes a half circle around the western metropolitan region, intersecting with CN routes.

A Canadian National report states the EJE, which is used sparingly for industries such as U.S. Steel, will provide the "missing link" in connecting lines that converge in Chicago and get backed up.

"This is a privately funded resolution of a regional congestion," CN spokesman Jim Kvedar said.

Quick crossings



Here are the roads that pass over or under the EJE railroad tracks between Division Street in Joliet and Skokie Highway near North Chicago. All other roads crossing the tracks do so at grade or road level.

Type of crossing	Where
1 Overpass	I-55
2 Underpass	Route 59
3 Underpass	McCoy Dr.
4 Overpass	New York St.
5 Underpass	N. Aurora Ave.
6 Underpass	I-80
7 Overpass	Butler Rd./Ferry Rd.
8 Underpass	Butterfield Rd., Route 56
9 Underpass	Roosevelt Rd., Route 38
10 Overpass	North Ave., Route 64
11 Overpass	Lake St., Route 20
12 Overpass	Irving Park Rd., Route 19
13 Underpass	Golf Rd., Route 58
14 Overpass	I-90
15 Overpass	Columbine Rd.
16 Overpass	Higgins Rd., Route 72
17 Overpass	Algonquin Rd., Route 62
18 Underpass	Rand Rd., Route 12
19 Underpass	Route 45
20 Overpass	I-94
21 Underpass	Skokie Hwy., Route 41

Source: Google Earth, Daily Herald research

prompted protests from DuPage County Board Chairman Robert Schillerstrom, who announced the county will notify the national board of its concerns.

"We're very concerned. If suddenly the EJE has a tremendous amount of traffic — there's a lot of at-grade crossings in DuPage, and this could snarl traffic and cause safety issues," Schillerstrom said.

In Naperville, "from the preliminary numbers we've seen, freight traffic will at least triple, and the hazardous materials that will be hauled will be even more than that," city engineer Bill Novack said. "Our largest concern is the traffic congestion that will cause."

Towns in the northern half of DuPage, such as Villa Park, Elmhurst, Addison, would be hearing a few less train whistles, Kvedar responded.

"We like to note more communities will have less trains running through them. This won't help the Napervilles of the world, but there are benefits," he said.

"Be advised at the end of the day, the railroads don't make this stuff, they move this stuff. Our customers are the regions employers."

Falling STAR?

Board noting that more freight trains crossing Route 14, Route 59 and Lake-Cook Road