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I would like to mention that I hope to see the Metra STAR line become a reality sometime in the future.

However, tonight I want to focus on the transitional curve from the CN to the EJ&E line located between Allanson Road and Route 60 in Mundelein. This is a relatively sharp curve, in a limited space.

There is potential for a freight train accident involving hazardous waste and dangerous chemicals at this curve, even after the proposed redesign. Speed, the condition, and maintenance of the track will directly impact on-going safety.

In a train accident on August 22, 2008 in Luther, Oklahoma; traffic was blocked in a 3 mile radius as a precaution against any toxic chemicals that could be spread by the wind. The Oklahoma accident involved crude oil and ethanol and was located in a remote area.

This section of Mundelein track is located near an industrial area; however, a 3 mile radius includes approximately 31 public or private schools and 21 parks. Not to mention local business or residential areas.

Do our residents, parents, business, or government leaders have an accurate list or knowledge of the chemicals and toxic material traveling daily on this rail line through our communities? We should all be concerned about the hazardous material traveling through our towns.

A direct quote from the Executive Summary of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Page 13 under Safety: "..., **based on the historic data maintained by FRA for annual hazardous materials release, the likelihood of a release of hazardous materials would still be remote, less than once every year.**"

Trains managing even a redesigned curve will be an accident waiting to happen. The likelihood of an accident or potential release of hazardous material **less than once every year** should not be acceptable. Please consider the safety, health, and well being of our residents and children.