

August 25, 2008

Phillis Johnson-Ball
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423
Ref: STB Finance Docket No. 35087

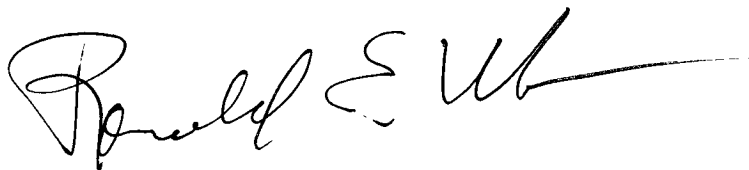
Barrington, IL, is one of the towns along the E J & E that will be most seriously affected by a CN takeover. Our situation is somewhat unique in that the E J & E splits the town with five grade crossings and also crosses the Union Pacific commuter/freight line. In addition to worsening already severe traffic congestion, the twenty freight trains per day will create an untenable situation for commercial activity and emergency response by police, fire and ambulance services.

CN claims that this should not be a problem because the trains pass through at 40 mph. However, the trains do not speed through and often slow to a crawl, sometimes coming to a complete stop for up to 5 or more minutes followed by slow acceleration, presumably because of having to coordinate with the busy Union Pacific consisting of 5 to 6 freight and 62 passenger trains each day, as indicated in the DEIS. The DEIS also indicates that before crossing the Union Pacific, trains on the E J & E are staged either between Otis Rd. and Main St. (northbound) or between lake Zurich RD. and Cuba Rd. (southbound), resulting in slow speeds through the center of town. Other towns along the E J & E may have a similar situation where there is an east-west commuter line that is crossed by the E J & E.

The single grade separation at the Hough St./Rt. 59 crossing suggested in the DEIS is only a partial solution. It helps the emergency response to some extent but does not solve the auto traffic congestion. Two additional grade separations would be needed at Man St. and at US Rt. 14, both of which carry heavy traffic. Construction of the three grade separations could require two or more years to complete at a very high cost, most of which CN shows little interest in funding. Meanwhile, the auto traffic congestion and safety situation will literally destroy own town.

We urge that serious consideration be given to these issues in your deliberations.

Respectfully,



Concerned Residents of Fairhaven
Barrington, Illinois