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CITY OF NORTHLAKE
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
NORTHLAKE, 60164

JEFFREY T. SHERWIN
MAYOR



April 24, 2008

The Honorable Anne K. Quinlan
Acting Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423

Surface Transportation Board
CN-EJ&E EIS - FD-35087

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Dear Acting Secretary Quinlan:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed Canadian National Railway Company's acquisition of the EJ&E. These are the official comments of the City of Northlake. The residential population of more than 11,888 is diverse, both in terms of its racial and ethnic composition and in its transportation needs.

The EJ&E purchase will provide our communities with much needed congestion relief. The City of Northlake has felt the effects of congested freight traffic and feel that the acquisition of the EJ&E will allow freight to move more efficiently through the region.

The City of Northlake also supports the STB's decision to require a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) regarding the impacts on CN's proposed physical and operations changes. This process will allow the public and City the opportunity to provide input about how this purchase will affect critical issues such as public safety,

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transportation and quality of life. We must also be concerned as a region about the viability of Metra's planned Star Line service on the EJ&E right of way. It is strongly encouraged that an agreement concerning the Star Line be reached between Metra and CN before the acquisition moves forward.

While the WCMC region will benefit from the proposed acquisition of the EJ&E by CN we support a full analysis to identify feasible options for mitigating negative impacts. We look forward to remaining closely engaged throughout the EIS and STB approval processes and beyond.

Yours truly,



Jeffrey T. Sherwin
Mayor

THE CITY OF NORTHLAKE
COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS



RESOLUTION
NUMBER R-12-2008

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE CANADIAN NATIONAL
RAILROAD COMPANY PURCHASE OF EJ&E RAILWAY**

JEFFREY T. SHERWIN, Mayor
JOANNE FLOISTAD, Clerk
FRED J. PAUL, Treasurer

SANDY DELGADO
PENNY FELDMANN
RICHARD GROCHOWSKI
JAMES NESSLING
THOMAS PADILLA
FRANCINE PATTI
RICHARD RIESTERER
PAUL T. STRAUBE, SR.
Aldermen

RESOLUTION NO. R-12-2008

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILROAD COMPANY PURCHASE OF EJ&E RAILWAY

WHEREAS, one third of the nation's freight rail traffic moves to, from or through the Chicago area every year making it the transportation hub of North America; and

WHEREAS, rail congestion has significantly slowed freight traffic through the Chicago region to the point where it can now take a freight train 24 hours to travel the thirty miles through the City of Chicago, slowing rail transportation nationwide; and

WHEREAS, opening up capacity on urban rail lines means that all rail traffic will move efficiently and smoothly through the city; and

WHEREAS, freight trains are three times more fuel-efficient and emit one-third less pollution than trucks carrying comparable loads, thereby lessening the drain on the nation's energy reserves; and

WHEREAS, a typical freight train carries the equivalent of 280 truck-trailer loads, thereby alleviating highway congestion by keeping time-sensitive freight on the rails rather than diverting to highways; and

WHEREAS, rail transportation is crucial to the region economically touching five million jobs nationwide; and

WHEREAS, if the problem of rail congestion in the region goes unchecked, it could cost the region \$2 billion in production with impacts on 17,000 jobs over the next two decades; and

WHEREAS, Chicago Region Environmental and Transportation Efficiency

Program (CREATE) a model public-private partnership, initiated more than five years ago, developed a comprehensive long term plan that would revitalize the area's transportation network by reconfiguring rail traffic through the Chicago Metropolitan region; and

WHEREAS, the CREATE comprehensive plan still hasn't received full government funding, even though it has had wide support from every level of government, the private sector and a broad cross-section of non-governmental groups and organizations; and

WHEREAS, Canadian National Railway Company, a founder an strong proponent of CREATE since its inception has proposed rerouting its traffic from the congested urban rail lines to the under-utilized Elgin, Joliet and Eastern Railway at its own cost and expense, there opening up new capacity on those urban lines; and

WHEREAS, by rerouting its traffic, Canadian national Railway Company will relieve freight congestion on many of the Chicago's region rail lines, thereby reducing travel times, pollution from idling trains and costs resulting from shipping delays.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Northlake, Cook County, Illinois, urges the Surface Transportation Board of the U.S. Department of Transportation to approve the application of the Canadian national Railway Company to acquire the Elgin, Joliet & Eastern Railway as a valuable enhancement of the region's rail network; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Acting Secretary of the Surface Transportation Board.

ADOPTED this 7th day of April, 2008 pursuant to a roll call vote as follows:

	YES	NO	ABSENT	PRESENT
Straube	X			
Feldmann	X			
Delgado	X			
Padilla	X			
Nessling	X			
Riesterer	X			
Grochowski	X			
Patti	X			
(Mayor Sherwin)				
TOTAL	8			

APPROVED by the Mayor on April 7, 2008.



Jeffrey T. Sherwin
MAYOR

ATTEST:



Joanne Floistad