



Village of Richton Park

April 30, 2008

Michael K. Mohan
Vice President – Service
Canadian National (CN)
17641 South Ashland Avenue
Homewood, IL 60430

RE: Resolution objecting to the Proposed Acquisition of the EJ&E West Company by the Canadian National Railway Corporation

Dear Mr. Mohan,

At the Village of Richton Park Regular Board Meeting on Monday, April 28, 2008, the Board of Trustees approved Resolution #R-7-08, A Resolution Objecting to the Proposed Acquisition of the EJ&E West Company by the Canadian National Railway Corporation.

This Resolution has been signed and sealed by the Village President and Clerk and is enclosed for your records.

If you have any questions in regards to these items, please contact me at (708) 481-8950 x110.

Sincerely,



Motiryo Keambiroiro
Village Manager

RICK REINBOLD, President

Proud Past – Bright Future

cc: **Phillis Johnson-Ball, STB**
Senator Barack Obama
Senator Dick Durbin
Senator Maggie Crotty
Representative Al Riley

Surface Transportation Board

CN-EJ&E EIS - FD-35087

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RESOLUTION NO. R 7-08

A RESOLUTION OBJECTING TO THE PROPOSED ACQUISITION OF THE EJ&E WEST COMPANY BY THE CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAY COPROTATION (SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD – FINANCE DOCKET NO. 35087)

WHEREAS, the Village of Richton Park I the "Village") located in the County of Cook in the State of Illinois, is a non home rule municipality; and

WHEREAS, on October 30, 2007 the Canadian National Railway Corporation, along with its U.S. subsidiary, Grand Trunk Corporation (collectively, "CN"), filed an application with the Federal Surface Transportation Board ("STB") seeking approval to acquire the EJ&E West Company, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Elgin, Joliet and Eastern Railway Company (collectively, "EJ&E"); and

WHEREAS, the proposed acquisition by CN would involve shifting a significant amount of train traffic that currently moves over CN's rail lines in the City of Chicago to sections of the EJ&E rail line west and sought of the City of Chicago, including a segment that runs through the Village; and

WHEREAS, the increase in freight train traffic resulting from the proposed acquisition by CN will create an adverse impact on the community along the EJ&E rail line, including, but not limited to, the Village, such as increased noise/vibrations, interruption in emergency vehicle response times and diminution of property values; and

WHEREAS, CN estimates that if the proposed transaction takes place, the average number of daily trains that run along the segment of the EJ&E rail line that runs through the village will increase from approximately 5.5. trains per day to approximates 28 trains per day and the gross tons of freight per day transported will increase from approximates 23,285 tons to approximately 173, 965 tons; and

WHEREAS, the increased amount of train traffic will interfere with the motoring public passing through as well as within the Village, including emergency vehicles, as one CN freight train could simultaneously close the essential grade crossing to our local hospital and neighboring municipalities; and

WHEREAS, freight traffic has rights over passenger traffic and the proposed acquisition will have significant secondary and cumulative effects on the Village and south suburban region in the planned Metra Suburban Transit Access Route (the "Star Line") that proposes to utilize the EJ&E railroad corridor to provide north-south commuter rail service to connect the northwest suburbs to the existing Metra commuter line and will likely jeopardize the future opportunity to provide a dynamic transportation option for residents, workers and visitors in the region; and

WHEREAS, the Village has identified concerns that will impact our community if this transaction takes place which are: (1) The increase train traffic levels will increase to 28 trains a day or more with an average train length of 7500 feet which is approximately a mile and ½ long. Train length could simultaneous block both Cicero and Central at the same time. (2) The Village's potential inability to have quiet zones from train noise within the community around schools and residential areas. (3) The proposed track loop at Main Street causing a negative impact on traffic circulation and noise. (4) Increase trips will cause delays at grade crossing on Cicero for vehicular and pedestrian traffic, which is a major thoroughfare in the Village. (5) Noise and vibration increase to local residences and business along the train line and the potential damage to structures and infrastructure. (6) Speed at which the trains will travel at 45 miles per hour, disruption to

the homogenous climate of the community and the potential environmental disturbance to the ecosystem this will cause. (7) Expansion of the system may have potential environmental impacts to the region. (8) The adverse impact of train derailments or emergency responses must be borne by the Village's police and part-time fire services without additional compensation from CN or their subsidiaries. (9) Lack of access roads to train rails throughout the community prevents emergency response equipment from reaching a major incident; and

WHEREAS, Canadian National has not proposed mitigation strategies that would relieve the community of excessive expenditures and as a foreign corporation benefit from the acquisition and transportation revenues while not enhancing the economic condition of the Village or residents; and

WHEREAS, acquisition has the potential to reduce property values because of the increased, noise, traffic and congestion and the potential to delay the access for emergency services vehicles to local hospitals and potential emergency events.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the President and Board of Trustees of the Village of Richton Park, Illinois in the County of Cook. The Village does hereby formally object to the proposed acquisition of the EJ&E by CN and urges the STB to disapprove of the proposed transaction based on the negative impact it will have on the Village, its residents and the region as a whole.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any acquisition of the EJ&E railroad by CN take a regional approach to resolving remediation issues; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all costs to remediate the increased noise and vibration interruptions, emergency response times, separation of grades, traffic congestion, ground water contamination, staffing requirements for emergency response, environmental impacts and other impacts not heretofore mentioned shall be borne by CN.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED a copy of this resolution shall be provided to Village's Congressional Representatives: Senator Durbin, Senator Obama, and Representative Jackson.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 28th **DAY OF** April **2008,**
BY A ROLL CALL VOTE OF THE VILLAGE OF RICHTON PARK BOARD OF TRUSTEES.


Rick Reinbold, President

ATTEST:


Mary Pierce, Village Clerk

Ayes: 6
Nays: 0
Absent: 0