

June 10, 2016

From: COBS Preservation Partnership

McNeal and Irene Roads

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To: Surface Transportation Board

Surface Transportation Board

395 E Street, SW

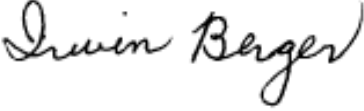
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Dear Surface Transportation Board Members,

In addition to the reasons provided in our letter dated June 9, 2016, there is one more reason the Surface Transportation Board (STB) should consider regarding the Great Lakes Basin LLC (GLBT) proposal. The Chicago Regional Environmental and Transportation Efficiency Program (CREATE), a partnership between the U.S. Department of Transportation, the State of Illinois, the City of Chicago, Metra, Amtrak, and the nation's freight railroads, is investing over \$3 billion to make improvements and increase the efficiency of the Chicago area's freight and passenger rail infrastructure to be completed by 2030. The program's goals pertaining to freight trains includes reducing freight rail congestion to boost regional and national economic competitiveness, improve air quality, reduce noise from idling or slow moving trains, and create and retain jobs. The CREATE current project map (copy attached) shows that a number of improvement projects are currently being undertaken to improve the speed of trains to pass through the Chicago corridor and increase the number of freight trains per day. There are 36 freight rail projects being undertaken including upgrades of tracks, switches, and signal systems. A recent study commissioned by CREATE estimates a reduction from 48 hours to 32 hours for intermodal and manifest trains to pass through the terminal and from 20 hours to less than 15 hours for unit trains. The CREATE status map (copy attached) shows that a number of projects have already been completed. Since this program is now in place to deal with the major problems of freight trains passing through the Chicago corridor, this lessens the need for the GLBT proposal that bypasses the Chicago corridor. This is another reason why the STB should deny the GLBT proposal.

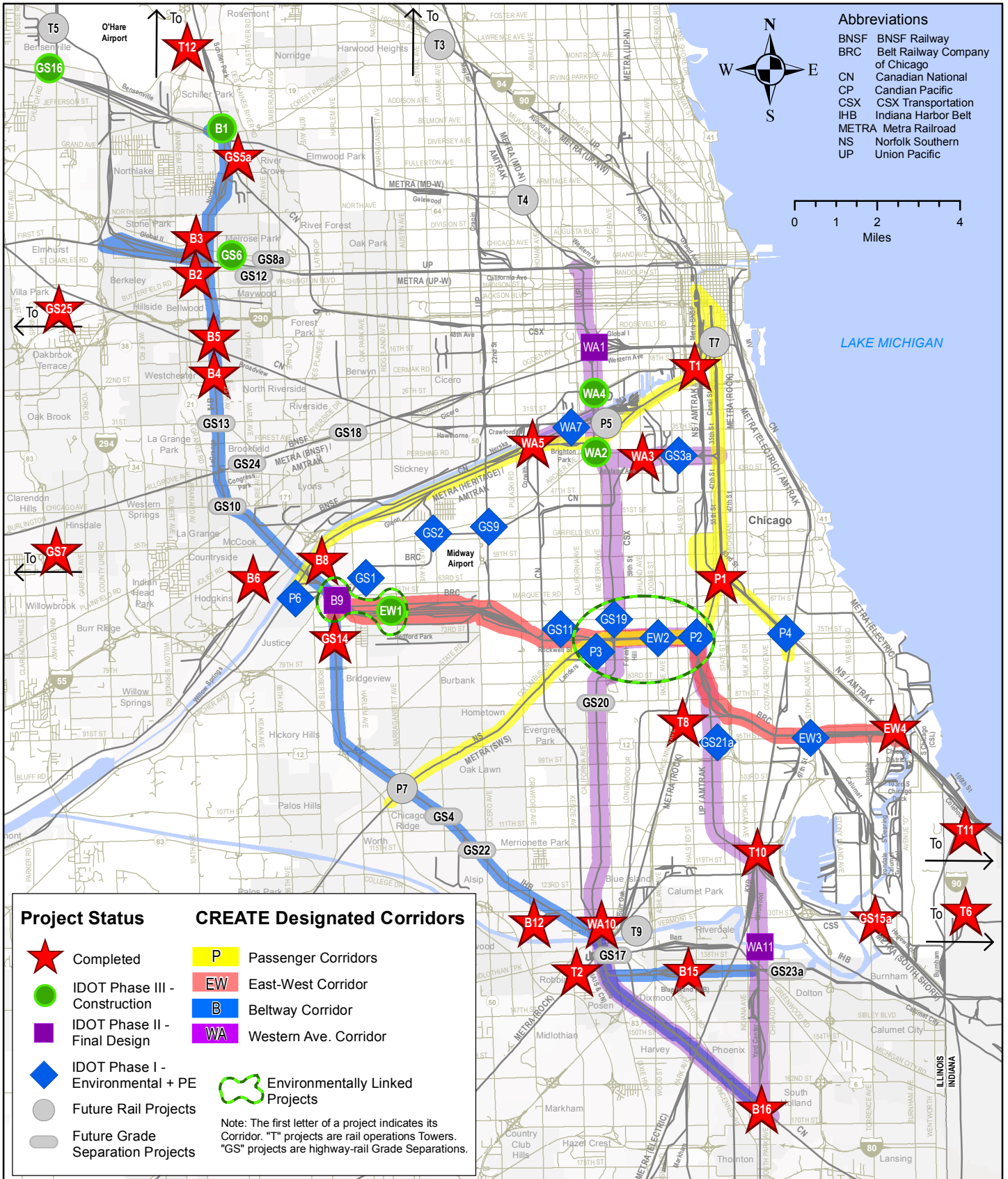
The COBS Preservation Partnership respectfully submits this addition to its June 9, 2016 letter and the supporting documents as another reason why the GLBT proposal should be denied. We hope that you will consider the reason brought up in this letter in making your final decision.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Irwin Berger". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Irwin Berger (On Behalf of the COBS Preservation Partnership)

Status of CREATE Projects (6/7/2016)



CREATE Program - Overall Project Status Summary

Revised - 7-Jun-16

						Current Project Status - 7-Jun-16					Project Completion Date
	Proj. No.	Project Name	Municipality	Railroads Affected	Lead Entity	Initiation Pending Funding Availability	IDOT Phase I - Environmental + PE	IDOT Phase II - Final Design (PS&E)	IDOT Phase III - Construction	Project Completed	
BELT CORRIDOR	B1	CP double & IHB connection	Franklin Park	Metra/CP/IHB/CN	Metra	-	-	-	X		Sep 2013 Sep 2009 May 2012 May 2012 Dec 2009 Mar 2009
	B2	Proviso 3rd Main	Bellwood / Berkeley / Elmhurst / Melrose Park	IHB/UP/Metra	UP	-	-	-	-	X	
	B3	Melrose connection	Bellwood	IHB/UP	UP	-	-	-	-	X	
	B4*	TCS LaGrange to CP Hill	LaGrange / LaGrange Park / McCook	IHB	IHB (CSX)	-	-	-	-	X	
	B5*	TCS LaGrange to CP Hill	Bellwood / Broadview / Melrose Park	IHB/CN	IHB (CSX)	-	-	-	-	X	
	B6	McCook	McCook	CSX/BNSF/Amtrak/Metra	CSX	-	-	-	-	X	
	B8	TCS Argo to Canal	Bedford Park / Bridgeview / Summit	CSX/Amtrak/Metra	CSX	-	-	-	-	X	
	B9**	Argo	Chicago / Bedford Park / Bridgeview / Summit	BRC/CSX/Amtrak/Metra	CSX	-	-	X	-		
	B12	CP Francisco	Alsip / Blue Island	CSX	CSX	-	-	-	-	X	
	B15	TCS Blue Island	Blue Island / Dolton / Riverdale	IHB	IHB (CSX)	-	-	-	-	X	
B16	Thornton Jct	South Holland	UP/CN	UP	-	-	-	-	X	Sep 2012 Jun 2014	
E-W CORRIDOR	EW1**	Argo	Chicago / Bedford Park / Bridgeview / Summit	BRC/Amtrak/Metra	BRC (CSX)	-	-	-	X		
	EW2***	80th Street	Chicago	BRC/Metra/UP/NS	BRC (NS)	-	X	-	-		
	EW3	Pullman Jct	Chicago	BRC/NS	NS	-	X	-	-		
	EW4	CP 509	Chicago	BRC/NS/Amtrak	NS	-	-	-	-	X	
WESTERN AVE CORRIDOR	WA1	Ogden Jct.	Chicago	CSX/NS/UP/Metra	UP	-	-	X	-		↑ Jun 2016 Jun 2009 Sep 2013
	WA2	TCS Blue Island Sub	Chicago	CSX/Amtrak/Metra	CSX	-	-	-	X		
	WA3	Ashland Ave. & CJ Mains	Chicago	NS	NS	-	-	-	-	X	
	WA4	BNSF Horseshoe	Chicago	BNSF/CN/NS/CSX	BNSF	-	-	-	X		
	WA5	Corwith Tower	Chicago	BNSF/CN/Amtrak/Metra	BNSF	-	-	-	-	X	
	WA7	Brighton Park	Chicago	NS/CSX/CN/Amtrak/Metra	NS	-	X	-	-		
	WA10	Blue Island Jct.	Blue Island	CN/CSX	CSX	-	-	-	-	X	
WA11	Dolton Interlocking	Chicago / Dolton / Riverdale	IHB/CSX/UP/Amtrak	CSX	-	-	X	-			
PASSENGER CORRIDORS	P1	63rd & State	Chicago	Metra/NS	Metra	-	-	-	-	X	May 2016
	P2***	74th Street	Chicago	BRC/Metra/NS	Metra	-	X	-	-		
	P3***	75th Street	Chicago	BRC/CSX/NS/Metra	Metra	-	X	-	-		
	P4	Grand Crossing	Chicago	NS/Amtrak	NS	-	X	-	-		
	P5	Brighton Park	Chicago	CN/Amtrak/Metra	Metra	X	-	-	-		
	P6	Canal	Summit	CN/Amtrak/Metra	Metra	-	X	-	-		
	P7	Chicago Ridge	Chicago Ridge	Metra/IHB	Metra	X	-	-	-		
TOWER PROJECTS	T1	21st Street	Chicago	Amtrak/Metra	Amtrak	-	-	-	-	X	Feb 2005 Aug 2014
	T2	Blue Island Jct.	Blue Island	CN	CN	-	-	-	-	X	
	T3	Roundout	Lake Forest	CP/Metra/Amtrak	CP/Metra	X	-	-	-		
	T4	A-5	Chicago	CP/Metra/Amtrak	CP/Metra	X	-	-	-		
	T5	B-17	Bensenville	CP/Metra	CP/Metra	X	-	-	-		
	T6	Calumet Tower (IN)	Indiana / Chicago	IHB	IHB	-	-	-	-	X	Mar 2013
	T7	16th Street	Chicago	Metra/Amtrak	Metra	X	-	-	-		
	T8	Gresham	Chicago	Metra	Metra	-	-	-	-	X	Jan 2010
	T9	Blue Island	Blue Island	Metra	Metra	X	-	-	-		
	T10	Kensington	Chicago	Metra/NICTD/Amtrak	Metra	-	-	-	-	X	Jan 2010
	T11	Hick (IN)	Indiana / Chicago	NS/Amtrak	NS	-	-	-	-	X	Jul 2010
	T12	Deval	Des Plaines	UP/Metra	UP	-	-	-	-	X	May 2005
GRADE SEPARATION PROJECTS	GS1	63rd St / Harlem Ave	Chicago	BRC	IDOT	-	X	-	-		Sep 2007 ↑ Oct 2012

* Projects B4 and B5 are linked for the purposes of environmental review and design/construction.

** Projects B9 and EW1 are linked for the purposes of environmental review and design/construction.

*** Projects P2, P3, EW2, and GS19 are linked for the purposes of environmental review and collectively known as the "75th Street Corridor Improvement Project".

↑ These projects are not yet complete but have secured a full funding commitment (from a combination of federal, state, local, and/or railroad sources) to advance through construction completion.