



The Barrington Citizens for Open Space, Inc.
990 Bosworth Field Road
Barrington, Illinois 60110

January 21, 2008

Re: STB Approval of Canadian National Proposal to Buy the EJ&E Railroad.

We oppose the CN proposal to buy the EJ&E Railroads due to the devastating effect it will have on the Village of Barrington and the safety of its residents.

Since 1999 The Barrington Citizens for Open Space worked to preserve a property along the EJ&E for open space and passive recreation. A project that included defeating a proposed medical complex, reclaiming a brownfield, passing three referenda, and getting village, park district and county officials to work together to build the award winning Citizens Park. This beautiful park opened in June 2007 with the final piece of the dream coming into place in October 2007 when a trail that connects with the trails in a 600 acre Lake County Cuba Marsh Forest Preserve was completed.

What does this have to do with the railroad? The north pedestrian entrance to the park is the RR crossing of Lake Zurich road. The increase in the number of trains would create an enormous safety issue for all pedestrians, especially children. The tracks run adjacent to the park and bisect the Lake County Cuba Marsh Forest Preserve. There was no reasonable expectation of increased RR traffic when building this park, as this rail line has never in its history been busy. There were not even gates at the crossings until a few years ago!

We believe that the best case would be for the STB to deny Canadian National's proposal to purchase the EJ&E Rail Road. The rerouting of traffic onto the EJ&E line is not the only solution to the rail gridlock. There are other solutions. 1) There is an alternative route available around Chicago on existing and abandoned rail lines. 2) CN could work with the City of Chicago to fix the actual problem which is in Chicago. 3) Or if the purchase goes through, we believe that CN should tunnel or trench the tracks in Barrington as was done in Reno, Nevada and the Port of Los Angeles.

The extremely dangerous situation that would ensue at the Lake Zurich Rd. /Citizens Park crossing would be repeated five times at the other EJ&E grade crossings, particularly at the tracks at the high school.

If you have ever lived in an area where there are a lot of long freight trains on a daily basis you will know that people tend to engage in risky behavior when they see yet another freight train coming. With children trying to get to a park or impatient and impulsive teenagers going to and from school tragedies will definitely occur. We implore the Surface Transportation Board to deny Canadian Nationals bid to buy the EJ&E Rail line.

Sincerely yours,

Christine Roggeveen
Christine Roggeveen

President

Surface Transportation Board
CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION
FD-35087
Legal Distribution
Date Recd. _____
HDR File No. _____
Scanned (initials): _____
STA ECT # _____
Cc. Original - Job File _____