

Chicago Railroad Issues—January 9, 2008

EJ&E

- Critical Cargo Report approved by CATS
- Freight by-pass movement endorsed
- US Steel, seller
- Purchaser—Western R.R. vs. Eastern R.R.?
- Canadian National most likely buyer

Metra

- Current Metra ownership of track, right-of-way, ballast of former Milwaukee, Soo, IMRL, Iowa, Chicago & Eastern (ICE) owned by DM&E lines—what are ALL freight trackage rights on ALL Metra railroad ownership?
- Star Line Proposal—huge flaws—two major study books published Phase I and II. This information has not been made public.—Why?
- Why not use current Metra lines that can serve O'Hare? Southwest side of Bensenville yard next to O'Hare boundary is a good site to connect to CN's east side location.
- Two Woodfield service options—branch freight line close by from Metra West (Itasca) along Rt. 53 north toward Woodfield mall area. Extend UP Northwest Line—triple track south along Rt. 53 from Arlington Pk. Racetrack to Woodfield mall.
- North Central line currently serves O'Hare on east side. MHSR Coalition has a map showing a rail connection to CTA at River Rd. O'Hare transfer on CN ownership is the best location for all (present and future) passenger rail access to O'Hare and its people mover system.
- Proposed use of IHB as a new commuter line from O'Hare to Midway airport is an ideal location for east side use.
- Chicago Central & Pacific (CN ownership) has excellent route to connect to Metra's West Line from Elgin heading toward Chicago.

CREATE---Chicago Region Environmental and Transportation Efficiency

- \$1.5 billion—6 yr. program—20% funded by six major railroads is the maximum cash available (\$300 million).
- Amtrak assistance? Metra assistance? No EJ&E involvement? State funds?
- Recent cessation by CN from CREATE proposal will allow new alignment of existing rail lines between passenger and freight use.

O'Hare Expansion—Dispute over benefits and costs using only east side location

- Metra? State of Wisconsin funding? State of Illinois funding?
- Amtrak—Madison/Milwaukee, Milwaukee Mitchell Field direct service to O'Hare. using CN tracks on east side.
- West side proposed rail realignment is not a wise strategy for new extended airport runways.
- Maintain freight only railroad service to Bensenville and Proviso yards on existing rail routes.

RTA/METRA/PACE Transit Task Force—Power shift to city away from suburbs. Why? Political Roles of Gov. Blagojevich, Rep. Mark Kirk and Mayor Daley.

TEA 21—

- West Loop Transportation Center is a priority for Mayor Daley—possible casino location
- Speaker Hastert has three major funding priorities for "his" district

DME/ICE—Do not allow any coal movements through CREATE? Why not force all coal movements over EJ&E?