

1 SCOPING MEETING FOR THE PROPOSED CANADIAN NATIONAL
2 RAILWAY COMPANY ACQUISITION OF THE ELGIN, JOLIET AND
3 EASTERN RAILWAY COMPANY
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9 STATEMENT OF:
10 SUZANNE BROWN
11 AUGUST 25, 2008
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14 HOLIDAY INN HOTEL
15 500 HOLIDAY PLAZA DRIVE
16 MATTESON, ILLINOIS
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23 REPORTED BY: Fran Okrei, 84-1074
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1 MRS. BROWN: My name is Suzanne Brown
2 and I live at 327 Oswego street, O-S-W-E-G-O,
3 Park Forest, Illinois. And I'm going to tell
4 about something I was thinking of.

5 We use the term quality of life in
6 this discussion. But -- in terms of my
7 community, there are basic needs that are
8 going to be lost as this is planned.

9 Western Avenue is such an important
10 highway in the whole Chicago region but
11 especially through my community. And to cut
12 it off, I mean, we already have 20 minute
13 waits for the six or so trains that go by.
14 And if you multiply that by five, I don't
15 know how people are going to get through.

16 We have one school north of the
17 tracks and buses can't get through. We have
18 teachers who wouldn't be able to get in. We
19 have emergencies from that school and others
20 within the village that go through to a
21 hospital to anything like that.

22 And we have teachers who travel from
23 one school to another. They would probably
24 lose their slot wherever they were going

3

1 waiting so long.

2 So these are basic needs and when you
3 use the term, quality of life. I mean it's a
4 wonderful term but it -- it sort of makes you

5 feel it's maybe a little extra outside the
6 basic needs. I wanted to mention that.

7 We are also trying to develop our
8 downtown and this is going to have a huge
9 impact on that. I mean people need access to
10 get in and out.

11 And our housing. I mean, we have
12 like everybody, we have a real housing crunch
13 and empty homes that we want people to buy
14 again. They look at that sort of thing,
15 access to the community.

16 So there are many things and I hope
17 these will be taken seriously before there is
18 approved. And all of the mitigation, I hope
19 they are talking about, I thoroughly agree
20 that the railroad should pay for it. The
21 taxpayers should not have to pay for it.
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