

02251, ⁰²¹⁰⁰⁸~~UNKNOWN~~ JOHNSON, PCTZ. 60010. O.N.

Delmar R. & Caryljean Johnson
110 South Hills Drive
Tower Lakes IL 60010
847-526-8593
February 10, 2008

Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington DC 20423

Attn: Phillis Johnson-Ball
Environmental Filing
STB Finance Docket No. 35087

Dear Ms. Johnson-Ball:

As residents of Tower Lakes in the Barrington area for 37 years, it is our observation that traffic through Barrington on Route IL-59 (Hough Street) is often impeded by considerable congestion. Normally this congestion is the result of the ever-increasing volume of traffic which peaks at morning and evening rush hour times, and the stop light at Lake-Cook Road (Main Street). Passenger trains on the Metra track cause spikes in the congestion. When freight trains on the EJ&E track come through, congestion turns into a major and unpredictable delay. Thus, 5 trains per day significantly affects traffic flow.

The thought of increasing train traffic to 20 trains per day would dramatically worsen the situation. One 5,000 foot train could bring traffic to a standstill in Barrington by stopping US-14 (Northwest Highway), IL-59, and Lake-Cook Road all at the same time, causing major gridlock in every direction. If more train traffic cannot be avoided, the following mitigation is essential:

Provide for emergency traffic flow for ambulances, fire, and police via over- or under-passes.

Have most train traffic during the hours of 10 PM to 5 AM.

Eliminate train traffic during peak automobile traffic periods, 6 AM to 9 AM and 4 PM to 6 PM.

We fear that, without such solutions, people will die on the way to the hospital, motorists' frustration levels will increase greatly, and there will be a major economic impact on Barrington businesses.

Surface Transportation Board
CN-EJ&E EIS - FD-35087
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Sincerely,

Delmar R. Johnson
Caryljean Johnson