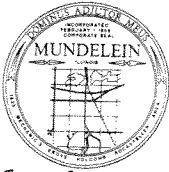


KENNETH H. KESSLER  
Mayor

# Village of Mundelein



## DEPARTMENT OF POLICE

221 NORTH LAKE STREET • MUNDELEIN, ILLINOIS 60060 • PHONE (847) 968-4600

January 24, 2008

Ms. Anne K. Quinlan  
Acting Secretary  
Surface Transportation Board  
395 E St. SW  
Washington, DC 20423

Surface Transportation Board

CN-EJ&E EIS - FD-35087

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Re: Environmental Filing STB Finance Docket No. 35087

This letter is in response to the proposed acquisition of the EJ+E by ~~Canadian~~ <sup>HDR</sup> National. The Village of Mundelein recognizes that railroad freight is one of the driving forces of this country's economy, and that without railroads, the economic sustainability of the country would surely suffer.

With that being said, it is our strong opinion that increased freight on our already crowded railways will severely impact our Village.

### Gridlock

Traffic congestion has made daily commutes and the transportation of goods and services a struggle. Locally, it can take 45 minutes to travel on Route 83 from the north side of Grayslake to the south side of Mundelein and travel times are severely impacted by railway traffic.

The current plan calls for an increase in the number of trains per day that will cross Diamond Lake Road and Route 83. Diamond Lake Road is a north-south collector currently being utilized as an arterial route because there are no adequate roads to move traffic north and south. Route 83 is a two-lane road with monumental traffic congestion because of all of the residential development occurring in the communities of Round Lake, Grayslake, and Hainesville. All of the concentration of improving the roadway system has occurred to the east from the toll road to Butterfield Road in Vernon Hills. This six lane roadway goes down to four lanes entering Mundelein and then narrows further to two lanes past Diamond Lake Road. Increased traffic on the rail lines crossing both Diamond Lake Road and Route 83 will cause complete gridlock to occur because the traffic will be at a dead standstill.

### Impact on Public Safety Response

The negative impact on the community and motoring public can potentially be devastating.

- From a public safety perspective, the gridlock caused by railroad traffic will cause frustrated motorists to start making conflicting traffic maneuvers such as u-turns, driving on private property trying to turn around, and going around railroad crossing gates. Obviously when traffic is stopped at one location, the gridlock spreads outward as traffic can't move freely.

"Community Focused - Community Committed"  
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RAYMOND J. ROSE  
Chief of Police



NATIONALLY ACCREDITED AGENCY

- Traffic crashes and rear-end collisions in particular will increase because of the starting and stopping motion of the traffic congestion caused by the increased number of trains.
- Diminishes and sometimes eliminates emergency services to the community at large due to traffic obstructions – simply put, if traffic is gridlocked and can't move – emergency vehicles can't move as well. There literally is "no way to get to there from here".
- Increases the amount of hazardous materials traveling within our borders. Mundelein then must address the increased potential for a Hazmat emergency caused by an action beyond our control – basically an unfunded mandate.

Clearly this increase in train movement will have a totally negative impact on Mundelein.

We already have experienced with Canadian National a severe problem with trains blocking roads within the Village. To further exacerbate this problem by adding additional trains to the railway system at these key locations is completely unacceptable.

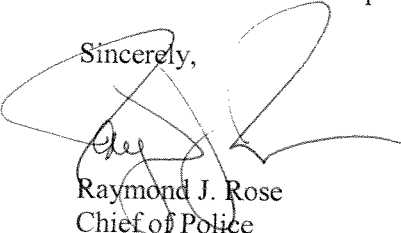
It is our hope that EJ&E will not proceed further without enhancing local infrastructures to alleviate the problems caused by the increased train traffic – anything less would be irresponsible.

Improvements at the following locations would mitigate public safety concerns:

- Route 60/83 at the EJ+E.
- Diamond Lake Road at the EJ+E
- Butterfield Road at the EJ+E
- Route 176 at the CN
- Allanson Road at the CN
- Route 60 and Butterfield at the CN
- Butterfield and 60 at the CN

The Village of Mundelein is extremely concerned that the increased freight traffic will surely strangle the economic viability of our community. We understand the opportunities that this merger would create and hope that along with the consideration of potential profit, the long-term welfare for the communities that are impacted would also be considered.

Sincerely,



Raymond J. Rose  
Chief of Police

RJR/ckp