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November 22, 2021

The Honorable Martin Oberman
Chairman, Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street S.W.
Washington, DC 20423

Re: Canadian Pacific Ry. – Control – Kansas City Southern Merger Proposal

Dear Chair Oberman,

I write you today regarding the merger that Canadian Pacific has proffered to Kansas City Southern railway. In the application for acquisition to the Surface Transportation Board, regarding Finance Docket No. 36500 Canadian Pacific Ry. – Control – Kansas City Southern, Canadian Pacific acknowledges that the proposed merger is expected to result in increased train lengths and daily train operations. This causes concern for our community. The Village of Elmwood Park, Illinois, currently has the widest and sixth-most dangerous at-grade crossing in the state according to Federal Railroad Administration's Web Accident Prediction System 2020 report.

The Village of Elmwood Park has a 366-foot grade crossing of three Canadian Pacific rail tracks across West Grand Avenue, a major regional road. This corridor carries more than 25,000 vehicles per day, 128 trains per day (freight and commuter), and is based in the Central Business District for our Village. This grade crossing is the widest in the State of Illinois, due to an acute 10-degree angle at which the four divided lanes of West Grand Avenue intersect the three Canadian Pacific rail tracks. In November 2005 there was a severe accident involving multiple vehicles stuck in the crossing, and a Metra commuter train. Following this accident the National Transportation Safety Board (in Accident Report HWY-06-MH-007) made only one recommendation to improve the safety features at this grade crossing: construction of a grade separation. Since that time, accidents have unfortunately continued as we work to meet this federal recommendation. Based on public filings that Canadian Pacific has supplied to the Surface Transportation Board, increased train lengths and daily operations are a very real likelihood. Until we can better understand these impacts, we have concerns about the safety of all who travel through our Village, and greater region. As the Village is a suburb of Chicago, Illinois, the current, dangerous, at-grade crossing is on a major throughfare for movement around the region.

The Village is committed to seeing this grade separation safety improvement through. We are actively working with federal and state partners to secure the resources necessary to complete this. Considering the expectation that train lengths and operations in our area will increase due to the proposed merger, our urgency has never been greater. According to the National Transportation Safety Board's sole recommendation to improve safety at the Grand Avenue crossing, any increase in daily train traffic volume will cause a safety concern for the thousands of motorists and commuters traveling it every day.

Sincerely,

Angelo "Skip" Saviano
Village President