

Docket No. FD 36500, Canadian Pacific Railway Limited – Control of – Kansas City Southern*OEA Public Scoping Meeting – Wednesday, December 8, 2021, 2-4PM***Public Comments:**

Preliminary data provided by CP regarding the proposed acquisition of KCS indicates a myriad of potential impacts that pose additional burdens to our community, such as increases in noise pollution, vehicular traffic congestion, grade crossing delays, as well as impeding emergency vehicle access/response and hindering our local economic spheres. Additional information is needed indicating specifics of these impacts, both in the long- and short-terms, as well as proposed mitigation measures to ensure impact is minimal.

1. Using data collected from the STB's interactive map of the proposed merger, CP's Bensenville Yard and the rail segment running through Bensenville have been identified as areas that exceed the nonattainment thresholds for environmental review. In the event the merger is authorized, our community is projected to see an estimated eight more trains per day and 17.44 more millions of annual gross ton miles, and the Bensenville Yard is projected to experience a 25.8% growth in the average number of cars handled per day. At the request of the Board, these projections have been calculated for 2027, five years after the proposed acquisition would be approved. We would like to see additional long-term projections.
2. In the STB's NOI, the Applicants (CP, KCS) state that the proposed acquisition would generate environmental benefits by reducing truck transportation on highways by more than 60,000 trucks annually, "resulting in less congestion, less maintenance, and improved safety on those roads, as well as less noise pollution in the places where those trucks would have driven, and lowered air emissions, including greenhouse gas emissions." We would like to see data that supports this claim. Given Bensenville's location near prominent regional transportation hubs, our community currently experiences high levels of truck traffic. Where are the areas that are projected to see this reduced truck transportation? Given Bensenville's proximity to CP's yard, there are concerns that truck traffic may increase, if not remain unchanged.
3. How will this merger impact Metra operations?
4. How would emergency response service times be impacted if more grade crossings are substantially affected? What mitigation measures will be offered to prevent these issues?
5. To what extent would the merged railroads be required to mitigate community harms at their own expense?
6. How many grade crossings in the region would become substantially impacted by increased rail traffic?
7. What aspects of environmental justice have been studied related to this proposed merger? The Village of Bensenville is a majority-minority community and among the lowest income communities in DuPage County. Will the proposed merger have a disproportionate impact on minority populations?