



CITY OF LECLAIRE, IOWA

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DATE: December 23, 2021

TO: Joshua Wayland, Surface Transportation Board, c/o VHB

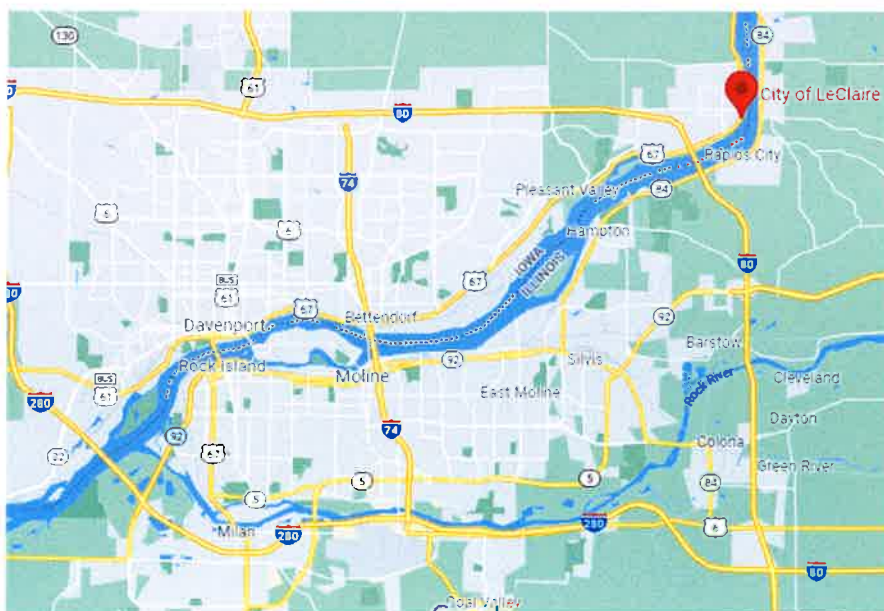
FROM: Dennis Gerard – Mayor & Dennis Bockenstedt – City Administrator

RE: Submission for Docket No. FD 36500 - Canadian Pacific Railway Limited, Control of Kansas City Southern

The City of LeClaire, Iowa respectfully submits the following comments regarding Docket No. FD 36500 related to an application filed on October 29, 2021 by Canadian Pacific Railway, Limited, et al. (CP) and Kansas City Southern et al. (KCS) seeking authorization for CP to acquire KCS.

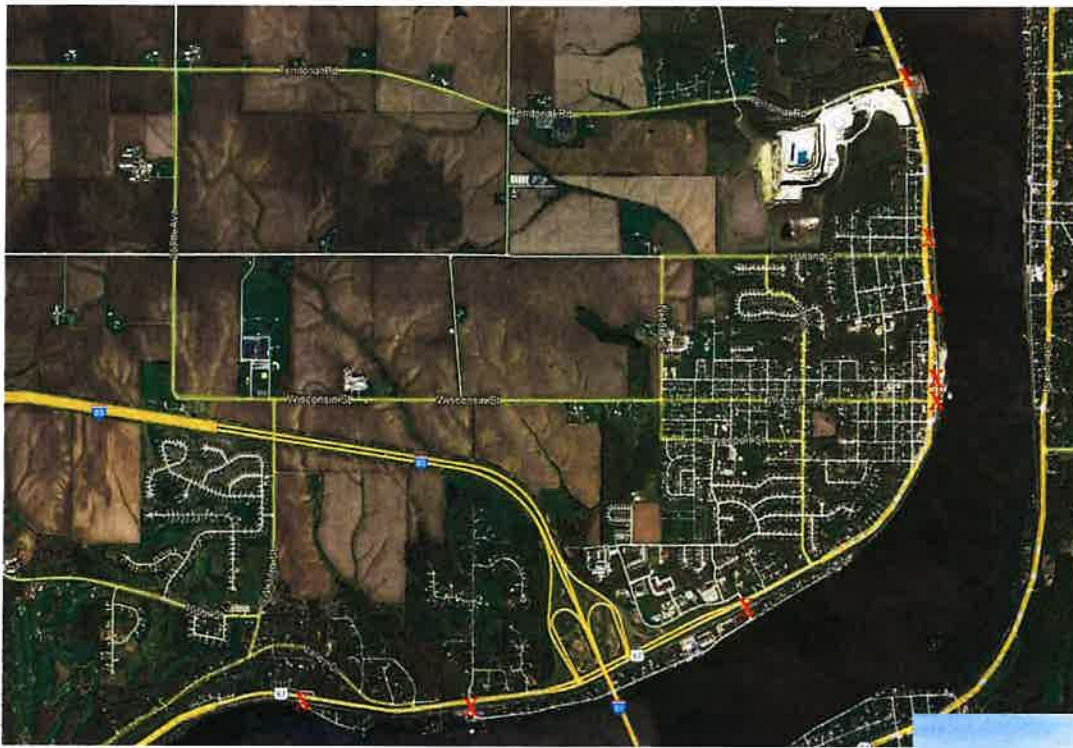
Overview

The City of LeClaire is located in eastern Iowa along the Mississippi River, approximately 15 miles North of Davenport, Iowa and is considered a suburb of the Quad City metropolitan area. The City experienced a 25% increase in population as of the 2020 census (4,710) and is the fastest growing region of the entire Quad City area. LeClaire is part of the Bi-State Regional metropolitan area that incorporates multiple municipalities in Iowa and Illinois with an approximate population of 475,000.



The Canadian Pacific Railway operates via a single track 4 miles along and through the LeClaire riverfront which extends the entire length of the community from North to West - Southwest.

The Canadian Pacific railroad has eight (8) street crossings and bisects several areas in the community including the downtown riverfront (including the City's public boat ramp and primary sewage pumping station #1), the Cody Road commercial district, approximately 100 Canal Shore Drive residences, and two separate private marinas. (See diagram below.)



Community Impact

LeClaire is a unique tourist community that is the home to many local festivals and events and is a regional attraction due to its quaint shops, restaurants, museums, and attractions. LeClaire is also widely known as the birthplace of "Buffalo Bill" and the home of the American Pickers and is a destination location for antique shoppers. The City entertains and hosts tens' of thousands of tourists each year which is one the primary drivers of the local economy.

The Canadian Pacific railroad is intimately integrated into the quaint downtown area. The numerous shops and attractions are very close to the railroad which is crossed innumerable times by pedestrians, bicycles, and vehicular traffic each and every day, including during the winter, slow season months. The river side of the railroad includes the riverfront park, the Buffalo Bill Museum, and the twilight riverboat cruises. The City's riverfront park and downtown are also host to many events and festivals including the famous Tugfest with Port Byron, Illinois.



ASTER PLAN

RVIEW



The City's current strategic economic development plan (The Marina District – see below) calls for a total make-over to the Mississippi Riverfront and the adjacent buildings on the West side of the tracks within the next

10 years. This make-over will only compound the interaction between increased rail traffic and pedestrian and vehicular traffic within this area of the City and create the need for additional access and safety features. In addition, access to the Captain's Quarter and Green Gables marinas as well as the Bierstube restaurant, the Holiday Inn Express hotel, and approximately 100 homes will be disrupted with greater frequency. Many of the attractions, businesses, homes, and facilities are only yards away from the Canadian Pacific rail line.

Safety

If the proposed merger occurs, documents show that the number of trains going through the City on a daily basis are anticipated to triple. Potential impacts include an increase in noise to tourists, decreased access to attractions and parking, interference and disruption of events and festivals, and diminished safety to the community and visitors. The City has recent experience with a Canadian Pacific train derailment (January 2020) and understands the damage and disruption that can occur.

Approximately two years ago now, a Canadian Pacific Rail train derailed on January 3, 2020 around 11:00 a.m. near the Buffalo Bill Museum in downtown LeClaire. More than a dozen rail cars and tankers toppled off the tracks, forcing local



officials to dispatch a hazardous materials team to the site. Luckily, no one was injured, no buildings were damaged, nor were there any hazardous materials released in this derailment, although there was extensive damage to public property and some privately owned, parked vehicles nearby were damaged. Combined damages to public and private property amounted to almost \$1,000,000 dollars. The following pictures illustrate just how close the railroad lines are to areas that are frequently populated with thousands of visitors, residents, and vehicles.

As the number of trains that travel through this area increase, the potential for a derailment such as this occurring more frequently or the outcome being more severe is quite likely. Mitigation of the risk to the community is our paramount concern.

Conclusion

Mitigation of the potential impact on residences, businesses, and community visitors will be essential. This substantial increase in traffic will result in more frequent traffic delays, more frequent maintenance requirements, an increase in train switching, and increased likelihood of accidental derailment or contamination events. The information provided as part of the Public Scoping Meetings do not currently indicate any planned capital improvements for this region. Safety enhancements such as the establishment of one or more quiet zones, pedestrian access overpass bridges and improved crossings must be considered and incorporated by the railroad as soon as possible as a part of this merger and the subsequent increased rail traffic. Review, discussions, and planning with the City should begin immediately so that these improvements are incorporated at the earliest possible date in this development process.

