

## RE: Merger of Canadian Pacific Rail and Kansas City Southern Railway

This merger will potentially impact dozens of trains in a stretch of line from Bensenville, Itasca to Chicago. These trains have delays from time to time due to medical emergencies and will slow down response times tremendously. These delays, to my understanding, will come from increased freight trains. Not in my neighborhood and not with my preferred mode of transit, the train!!!

As a Metra passenger over 20 years, I have seen delays due to medical emergencies time and time again on late night trains and commuter routes. Paramedics will be delayed causing chaos on a late-night train or commuter route. Whatever time of the day time is of the essence due to lives being at stake. According to a TV station in Kentucky, a fire truck was dispatched to a nursing home in Lyden was delayed responding to a medical event at a local nursing home. The trip took 10 minutes as opposed to 3 to 4 minutes (Charlton, 2002)<sup>1</sup>. This needs to be considered and is unacceptable in any community.

As a social worker, my other concern of this merger is the trains passing through areas of poverty. The noise and air pollution are one thing, but people need to be able to be in their apartment building peacefully. I fully expect that these properties be taken into consideration of this merger. The link between poverty and area of pollution are inextricably linked. More pollution from increased freight trains as a result of this potential merger are deadly.

Now, these delays are too much for the public to handle when increased risk is involved. The example above could significantly increase if this merger is allowed. The lives are much more important than profit!

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Charlton, John, September 8, 2002, First responder expresses concern about trains stopping on railroads, blocking routes, <https://www.whas11.com>.