

From: [carol jones](#)
To: [EIS Contact](#)
Subject: Objection to CP Merger
Date: Wednesday, October 12, 2022 5:11:06 PM

Myself and many other folks that live in Muscatine object to this RR merger. This holds true for many people of other towns along the RR route. Most cities have struggled with the demise of their downtown areas and have invested money and time to rejuvenate their downtown areas.

Muscatine has spent millions of dollars upgrading the riverfront area. Installing river walk areas, children's playground and children's water fountain. Hundreds of people use the walking path every day. Many families bring their children to play and socialize. There area picnic areas and restroom facilities. The special lights the city had made are called the Sting of Pearls paying homage to Muscatine's history with the origin of the pearl button industry.

The city has spent a great amount of money, time and energy renewing the riverfront as a destination site. New boat ramps have been built which bring in untold amounts of fishermen as well as fishing tournaments and hovercraft tournaments and exhibitions. A new Marriott Bonvoy hotel has been built with a view of the river. New restaurants have opened. I doubt they will advertise hourly train traffic included.

Wonderfully landscaped areas are home to frequent music concerts. By the way - music and trains do not mix well. Rumbling of trains tend to drown out the music. Our Symphony has a concert each year for the general public. We have several music and food truck weekends each summer. Two years ago a train blocked the entrances to our riverfront and there was a medical emergency. A heart attack should not wait for a train to move. In my opinion of course.

There are two buildings on our river front which are utilized as venues for weddings, graduations, birthdays and many other occasions. Local dance groups perform at the riverfront. It is a beautiful setting and it is used by locals and people from all around the area.

Running groups have events, we have craft fairs and car shows. We love our riverfront area. It is a recreational gathering place for our area. **We as a city believe that having the increased RR will change our riverfront from a recreational area to a highly inaccessible industrial area.** The danger of RR/pedestrian accidents will increase with the larger volume of trains and people trying to beat the train on and out of the riverfront areas.

I live on top of the bluff and realize that the train activity has already increased. The unending whistles and the noise of the trains disturb what had been a peaceful life with the occasional sound of a train. I cannot imagine the noise of 20 to 30 trains a day rolling through here. That is one or more trains every hour. You are invading our space and polluting our town with noise and inconvenience. Surely it has been considered that these tracks tun along a major waterway from which many towns and principalities draw their drinking water. What about water safety issues?

Many people who work downtown park in the riverside lots. Many people who work downtown walk to the riverfront to have lunch. I see that coming to a halt as they would not know when trains would be stopped and they would not have access to be back to work at the appropriate time. My husband took a walk and was blocked by the train. He walked and additional 2 miles, I am guessing 30 min and was still blocked by the train. This could potentially drive small businesses from the downtown area which the city has worked to

long and hard to build up. Highway bypasses killed many a downtown area and this RR merger has the potential to strangle them once again.

Besides our river area there is the issue of access to the south end of town. Trains can and do cut off all access to that area of town for workers, folks with appointments, but most important fire and ambulance services. This is not a rare occurrence but unfortunately a quite regular experience. Even with the proposed overpass at one site, there would be increased response time for emergencies as well as an inordinate amount of traffic routed through a single access. This would increase the amount of personal vehicle traffic with industrial semi traffic and increase the likelihood of traumatic accidents.

I am asking you to consider, if you lived close to a RR and your city had invested large amounts of finances and labor into upgrading and area. Would you want endless train traffic destroying your vision for a vibrant and peaceful place to have your family live and grow?

I thank you for taking the time to consider these issues when voting on this merger. You are affecting so many people in so many towns who are in the same predicament as Muscatine.

I and so many others vehemently oppose this merger.

Sincerely,
Carol L Jones