



THE VILLAGE OF
BARTLETT

228 S. MAIN STREET
BARTLETT, ILLINOIS 60103
PHONE 630.837.0800
FAX 630.837.7168
www.village.bartlett.il.us

VILLAGE PRESIDENT
Kevin Wallace

ADMINISTRATOR
Paula Schumacher

VILLAGE CLERK
Lorna Giless

TRUSTEES
Michael E. Camerer D.C.
Vince Carbonaro
Raymond H. Deyne
Kristina Gabrenya, OD, FAAO
Adam J. Hopkins
Aaron H. Reinke

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September 30, 2020

Ms. Cynthia T. Brown
Chief, Section of Administration Office of Proceedings
U.S. Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, Southwest
Washington, D.C. 20024

RE: STB Finance Docket 36397

On behalf of the 42,000 residents of the Great Village of Bartlett, I extend our sincere appreciation and thanks to the STB for continuing to evaluate rail traffic in Bartlett. I would also like to provide another update now that it has now been over one year since Village officials were before you in Washington D.C.

The Village continues to enjoy significantly reduced train stoppages on Spaulding, West Bartlett and Stearns Roads. While train traffic has continued unabated, the reduction in the train *stoppages* has greatly improved traffic flow with a domino effect throughout the community. The *temporary* decision to cease interchange operations at the Spaulding yard, has greatly improved traffic flow for all of our residents, businesses, commuters, and all other stakeholders.

In response to CP's assertion that they reached out to the Village, that is entirely accurate. After the August, 2019 hearing, Arielle Giordano, CP's Director for Federal & State Government Affairs, did kindly reach out in both person and via e-mail with a few grant possibilities. The Village has evaluated the possibility of grade separation over the years, and continues to actively seek all types of grants and other programs to fund transportation and safety improvements for our residents.

However, the Village sees the status quo as the ultimate solution for this dilemma. While grants are a great tool that the Village utilizes on a regular basis, we do not view a track separation as a viable alternative due to economic, engineering, and environmental concerns. Even with significant grant monies, the construction of a grade separation would cost our residents MILLIONS of dollars. In the far more efficient and viable status quo, our residents freely travel and our emergency personnel can respond in a timely and effective manner- when seconds *do* matter. Simply put: the status quo costs our residents, the Village, and other units of local government nothing for a safe and adequate solution.

Thank you once again for considering the Village's position. While we respect all parties involved, we intend to continue to pursue what is best for our 42,000 residents, first responders, and businesses. The Village continues to be grateful to the STB for analyzing this situation closely and sincerely, as this temporary decision has fundamentally changed our community for the better.

Sincerely,

Kevin Wallace
Village President

KW/ss

Docket Number FD36397 parties of record Notification

CC: all parties of record have been served.

Thank you,

Samuel Hughes

Village of Bartlett