



MATTHEW J. O'SHEA
ALDERMAN, 19TH WARD

December 12, 2018

246895

Via electronic filing

Ms. Cynthia T. Brown
Chief, Section of Administration
Office of Proceedings
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
December 12, 2018
Part of
Public Record

Re: *CSX Transportation, Inc. – Acquisition of Operating Easement – Grand Trunk
Western R.R. Co., STB Docket No. FD 35522*

Dear Ms. Brown:

Enclosed please find for filing in the above-captioned proceeding the comments of individual citizens in affected neighborhoods in response to CSX Transportation, Inc.'s ("CSXT") performance and reporting over the past two years. These comments are being submitted on behalf of the individuals or organizations who authored them. On behalf of the individual commenters from Chicago's 19th Ward, I request that these comments be entered individually in the docket of this proceeding.

I acknowledge this Board's decision, issued on December 10, 2018, in this matter, electing not to act at this time. The attached letters were written, submitted and compiled in the months prior to the issuance of Board's decision, and accordingly do not reflect responses to that decision. However, CSXT's authority to operate on the Elsdon Line is subject to the railroad's ability to operate in accordance with the conditions imposed by this Board. Although CSXT has protested that its compliance will compromise the fluidity of its operations and those of other railroads throughout the Chicago Terminal area, it has not produced any evidence to support that assertion. In any event, coordination problems beyond the Elsdon Line are irrelevant to the fact that CSXT has failed, and continues to fail, to operate as it is required to do ON the Elsdon Line.

These comments were submitted to my office by their respective authors. The commenters have **not** requested to be parties of record in this proceeding. For the Board's convenience and that of other readers, the attached comments are arranged alphabetically by author and the pages are numbered in sequence from A-1 through A-66.



MATTHEW J. O'SHEA
ALDERMAN, 19TH WARD

Comments of a similar nature were submitted into the record of this proceeding on March 10, 2016, and listed on the STB's electronic docket as having been submitted by "Concerned Citizens of Ward 19 and Evergreen Park". While the Board adopted this description as shorthand for the commenters collectively, there is no group of that name acting on behalf of those communities. As stated above, all of the attached comments and those submitted on March 10, 2016, are those of the individual commenters.

The citizens of the 19th Ward urge this Board to require CSXT to operate in conformance with the conditions it voluntarily agreed to, and to eliminate the significant adverse impacts it is having on surrounding communities. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Matthew O'Shea
Alderman, 19th Ward, City of Chicago, Illinois
10400 S. Western Ave.
Chicago, IL 60643
margie@the19thward.com

cc: All Parties of Record

Enclosures

From: "Allen, Jason T" <JTAllen@ssc.edu>
Sent: 6/20/18 2:31 PM
To: "CSX@the19thward.com" <CSX@the19thward.com>
Subject: STB docket number FD35522
undefinedundefined

This e-mail is in reference to STB docket number FD35522.

The CSX trains which pass through the area have affected traffic to the point that I no longer attempt traveling east passed Kedzie.

The times when this hasn't been possible, I have found the CSX trains stopped on the tracks and traffic backed up.

This month it has happened twice, which is 100% of the time, and I've had to turn around and find a different route home. The number of vehicles doing U-turns is dangerous to me in particular because I ride a motorcycle.

Businesses in our area also suffer because many residents are hesitant to risk sitting at a RR crossing for an hour and, instead, do not patronize businesses across the tracks.

From: Joyce Barnes <jrjsoul@yahoo.com>
Sent: 6/18/18 12:26 PM
To: "CSX@the19thward.com" <CSX@the19thward.com>
Subject: 95th street crossing
Ms. Cynthia Brown

I am writing in reference to the above ward crossings. This morning @ the 95th street crossing, I was stopped by a train for 45-55 minutes. I understand delays happen but this morning as excessive. The train was first of all very long and then it stalled there. I leave work every morning at 5:55 am, I usually travel down 103rd, but that crossing is under construction, so I went down 95th street only to encounter this delay. I was 2 hours late for work!! This is unacceptable at morning rush hour.

I hope the CSX is trying hard to eliminate the length of trains and the stalls.

Joyce Barnes
773-577-6708

From: Alana <arbroady@aol.com>
Sent: 6/25/18 5:31 PM
To: CSX@the19thward.com
Subject: CSX #FD35522

Ms. Cynthia Brown
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Re: CSX # FD35522

Dear Ms. Brown:

I am writing in regard to the inconvenience posed by CSX trains on the Elsdon line on Chicago's southwest side. The trains are long and slow, often stopping and blocking grade crossings for long periods. A specific instance of this problem occurred last August 2017, when a stopped train was blocking the grade crossing at 95th St. I had visited the Sherwin-Williams paint store to secure additional cans of paint for a painting contractor who was painting my home's exterior; he was waiting for the paint at my home in the Beverly area. When I exited the store, the rail crossing was blocked by a stopped train. I waited a while, then decided to proceed south on city streets, hoping that the 99th St. crossing would be open. It was not. I continued south to 103rd St. The same train blocked that crossing. There was a lot of traffic on the street attempting to do as I was doing, find an available crossing. Traffic was backed up and moving slowly through the intersections. I had to go all the way to 111th St. in order to find an open crossing to get around that train, which still continued to block grade crossings for almost two miles. The process added more than 40 minutes to my errand while the painting contractor and his crew idled.

I am requesting that CSX improve its performance on the Elsdon line by completely eliminating the practice of having trains stopped and blocking grade crossings. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Alana Broady
10357 S. Hamilton
Chicago, IL 60643

From: Mary Lou <marylou0546@att.net>
Sent: 6/25/18 3:37 PM
To: CSX@the19thward.com
Subject: Stb docket number 35522

This morning, there was a train stopped crossing 94th and Kedzie. I waited about 20 minutes before I went back east to attempt to find a way to go south then go west. This was about 11:15 am. There was a fire truck ahead of me. A funeral procession was broken up attempting to go north on Kedzie.

Traffic became crazy as people were frustrated trying to find a way to get wherever they were going.

Long trains are bad enough. Stopped trains are inexcusable in the city. We have 2 hospitals along 95th, Little Company of Mary Hospital in Evergreen Park and Christ Hospital in Oak Lawn.

I want to know what happened this morning to cause such chaos.

I look forward to your reply.

Mary Lou Burke
Sent from my iPad

From: Bob Carroll <cfd11236@aol.com>
Sent: 6/18/18 4:42 PM
To: CSX@the19thward.com
Subject: FD35522
Good Afternoon,

I travel West down 111th from my residence on the East side of the 111th\Sacramento RR tracks daily for work. I cannot count how many times in the last 18 months a train was stopped blocking the RR crossing. My concern is not about the inconvenience of finding an alternative route over the tracks, or the traffic safety concerns of motorists driving recklessly down the side streets to 103rd or 115th Street, although that is a problem. My concern is about the delayed response time the Chicago Fire Department's Engine 92 (3112 W. 111th Street), has responding to emergencies. Thankfully a loved one living to the East of the 111th Street RR crossing has not needed an ambulance or experienced a house fire. If Engine 120, which is located behind the 022nd district police station is not available, the closest First Responder is coming all the way from 104th/Vincennes and the closest engine company is coming from 95th/Wood. That is unacceptable when the neighborhood firehouse is located blocks away. Thank you Alderman, for taking steps to stop this problem, before someone gets seriously injured or dies.

Respectfully,
Robert Carroll

Sent from my iPhone

From: Marian Cassler <msmar@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: 6/25/18 8:48 PM
To: CSX@the19thward.com
Subject: STB docket number FD35522

Ms. Cynthia Brown
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Dear Ms Brown:

My name is Ronald Cassler and I live at 10322 S Sacramento Ave, Chicago IL, which is 3 houses from the intersection of 103rd and Sacramento.

I am writing to give you an update on the CSX rail line that runs parallel to Sacramento Ave. When I witness a train that blocks the intersection I call 911 and the ward office to report the violation. The following are some of our observations from January through June 2018.

1/4 train parked and idling
1/15 train parked and idling
1/30 train parked and idling
2/2 Gates down and no train in sight. Missed train for work
2/5 train parked and idling
2/9 Gates down for over an hour. Late for train again
2/12 train parked and idling
2/13 train parked and idling
2/14 train parked and idling
2/15 train parked and idling
3/6 train parked and idling
3/19 train parked and idling
3/24 train parked and idling at 1:22 a.m.
3/27 2 different trains parked and idling
4/9 train parked and idling

5/1 train parked and idling

5/4 blocked crossing fire truck forced find alternate route. Blocked for 1 hour and 15 mins. during rush hour

5/9 train parked and idling

5/22 train parked and idling

6/20 5 hours train parked and idling

Please note that there have been many issues with CSX. I thought that the railroad agreed not to send trains if they were going to sit in neighborhood areas.

This seems to be poor communication on their part. Not knowing what is in the cars and if they are dangerous worries us that something could happen with these trains sitting. Also the blocking a main through street to the hospital can jeopardize someone's life. CSX should be a good neighbor and obey the Transportation Board Rules.

Sorry we are a little late with this report. We were on vacation.

Sincerely

Ron Cassler

From: jeancat27 <jeancat27@aol.com>
Sent: 6/22/18 5:34 PM
To: CSX@the19thward.com
Subject: STB docket number FD35522
ATTN: Ms. Cynthia Brown
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Please consider the following example of how a sitting train affects commuters on an early rush hour morning.

May 10, It's 7:31 a.m. in Chicago at the 87th Street crossing just west of Western Avenue and the train had been blocking us for over 5 minutes. it's rush hour we need to get to work, school and appointments .

Unbelievable, by 7:36 I was finally Crossing Western Avenue on 83rd Street (the underpass viaduct--is the only way to get past the sitting train.) a stream of traffic from both directions were trying to get east and west of the sitting/blocked train to get to our commitments. Additionally we were going through all kinds of neighborhoods where there were children and families walking to school and intersections filled with police crossing guards. IT WAS EXTREMELY dangerous AND a horrible situation. An Unhealthy stressful way for anyone to start their day. THE PHONE WAS BUSY and it wasn't until 7:53 am that I was speaking to someone from CXS. They could provide no reason for these delays. (I arrived 18 minutes late to my appointment due to the unexpected detour and delay!)

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Catania

Sent from my T-Mobile 4G LTE Device

From: daniel collins <ffdcollins@hotmail.com>
Sent: 6/20/18 5:46 PM
To: "CSX@the19thward.com" <CSX@the19thward.com>
Subject: Delays Delays Delays

The increased number and duration of delays shows that the economy is robust. We are very happy to see this sign, however; two train lines, just one half of a mile apart, adds to frustration in West Beverly. An underpass, like that on 111th Street just west of Cicero, would be a great solution on 103rd Street.

The numerous times that the intersection of 95th and Kedzie is shut down for more that 10 minutes at times is ridiculous. All of this is more than nuisance. This is a public safety disaster waiting to happen. Every minute a cardiac arrest victim goes without CPR means a 10% decrease in survival rate. 10 minutes in those cases means zero chance to save a life.

The delay in response of fire fighters, paramedics and police officers is a very real concern. Is CSX willing to take on the liability of increased delays? They will probably blame the municipalities for not spreading their resources more efficiently. That comes with great cost which I am sure CSX will not pay.

If corporations are people, then they should be held criminally responsible if delayed public safety responses cost someone their life.

Dan Collins
Lifelong 19th Ward Resident
Career Fire Fighter

Virus-free. www.avg.com

From: Marilyn Cosentino <mcosen1@gmail.com>

Sent: 6/25/18 10:11 PM

To: CSX@the19thward.com

Subject: Docket # 35522

This email is in reference to STB docket #35522. I am writing because of the constant chaos the csx lines have created in my life. In order to get both of my kids to school and myself to work, I need to cross the CSX line. In the week of May 21st, trains were stopped on two different days. The first day, Tuesday, May 22nd, a train was stopped. Navigating around the stopped train was a nightmare as I didn't know if I should head north or south to find an open crossing. Thousands of other people were also attempting to find a way across and traffic was horrific. As a result, my high schooler was late for a final exam and my 4th grader was late for school. Later that same week, another train prevented my kids from getting to school on time. Both of my kids are extremely conscientious and this really upset them and created a great deal of unnecessary stress. In truth, I have been delayed and even trapped by stopped trains so many times that I now approach each crossing with great trepidation. I will only approach the crossing from the middle lane so that I at least have a chance of turning around if I am unfortunate enough to get stopped by a train which then stops and doesn't move. These trains are making me borderline rail crossing phobic! It's really awful to know your young child is waiting for you to pick her up while you are stuck by a train that isn't moving and you have no way to contact your child (as young children don't have cell phones) to let them know you'll be late. Furthermore, I've been late for work five times since January because of trains. I get paid by the hour as an adult education instructor, so stopped trains have truly hurt my pay check. Please figure out a solution to this problem as it is effecting my quality of life. Thank you, Marilyn.

From: moira <mcurran21@hotmail.com>
Sent: 6/22/18 2:07 PM
To: "CSX@the19thward.com" <CSX@the19thward.com>
Subject: STB docket number FD35522

I have been inconvenienced by the trains numerous times. They are slow, long and generally intrusive. I have been late to pick my children up for school and also late for health appointments. I can only imagine a person in an ambulance or awaiting a first responder being inconvenienced.

Please address these numerous problems and also learn to maintain CSX property.

Best, Moira Curran

From: Michelle Dakuras <K2teacher@aol.com>
Sent: 6/25/18 4:10 PM
To: csx@the19thward.com
Subject: Fwd: Train blocking 111and 115 streets at Rockwell today

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Michelle Dakuras <K2teacher@aol.com>
Date: June 23, 2018 at 4:12:48 PM CDT
To: mattoshea@the19thward.com
Subject: Train blocking 111and 115 streets at Rockwell today

Just to let you know there was a freight train blocking 111and 115 th at Rockwell today Sat.
6-23 from about 12:15 pm until 1:00 pm. I was stopped waiting for train to move for 45 minutes on my way home.
Michelle Dakuras
Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 23, 2018, at 12:01 PM, Matt O'Shea <mattoshea@the19thward.com> wrote:

June 18, 2018

Ms. Cynthia Brown
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Re: STB docket number FD35522

Ms. Brown,

I am a resident of the 19th Ward of Chicago, IL. I would like to submit several complaints regarding the CSX's Elsdon Line. The train always stops on the track and blocks the streets. I have a granddaughter that I have to pick up and drop off at school and have been late on more than 1 occasion. This morning in trying to get to her house I had to reroute my commute because the train was blocking several major streets. There have been several times that I was not able to get her off the school bus simply because the train had stopped on the tracks, not allowing any crossings.

Please can you or your team do something about this consistent problem

Thanking in advance for your cooperation

Celeste M. David
2215 W 111th St.
Chicago, IL 60643

From: Chanda Davis <cdavis@thefrancesgroup.net>
Sent: 6/25/18 7:54 PM
To: "CSX@the19thward.com" <CSX@the19thward.com>
Subject: STB docket number FD35522

Ms. Cynthia Brown

Surface Transportation Board

395 E Street, SW

Washington, DC 20423-0001

I'm a resident in the 19th Ward, whom fortunately resides on the east of this railroad crossing. Given that on at four occasions since May 1st, I've been severely delay, which impacts an already hectic commute. I've been late getting to my daughter from work, etc. The trains at this railway are excessively slow and often stop for long periods time. Unfortunately, at this particularly street your only hope is if you can travel to beat the train a few miles down at a crossway because there is no way around the train.

I hope this email sheds a bit of light on the frustration and happenings.

Best,

Chanda

Carol DeBold
10646 S. Sawyer Ave.
Chicago, IL 60655

June 18, 2018

Ms. Cynthia Brown
Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Re: STB Docket Number FD35522

I am writing to you today regarding repeated blockage of crossings by stopped trains or malfunctioning gates on CSX's Elsdon Line. Over the past six months, I have been late for work three times. There have been many days that I barely made it to work on time because of long delays and backed up traffic on Kedzie and 95th. In addition, I had to reschedule a doctor appointment because this train gate delay caused me to be more than fifteen minutes late. Each morning I have to decide where I need to cross the tracks going east, because if I rely on crossing only at 95th I take a chance on being late again.

This delay also causes other drivers to reroute down side streets in the morning when the children are walking to school. This makes for a very dangerous situation because they are in a hurry and are racing down side streets.

Please take this seriously and investigate what is causing these delays and impacting our daily lives.

Sincerely,



Carol DeBold

From: Dianna Durkin <dc68@att.net>
Sent: 6/18/18 7:02 PM
To: CSX@the19thward.com
Subject: Traffic and business / safety / train
undefined

I own a business just before the tracks and the trains sits in the tracks and backs up the traffic all the way to Kedzie, prevents customers getting to my storefront. It happens theuout the day.

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

From: Kathy Farley <yelraf620@comcast.net>
Sent: 6/19/18 7:37 PM
To: CSX@the19thward.com
Subject: STB docket number FD35522
Ms. Cynthia Brown
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Dear Ms. Brown,

My house is bordered by railroad tracks and I do understand the necessity of rail transportation delivering our goods to and from, so I am not taking this situation for granted.

The concern is the frequency of freight trains that are hauling numerous cars and their need to either slow down or come to a full stop.

This leads to traffic tie ups, unnecessary speeding after the gates are raised and the urgent need for emergency vehicles to be able to get around the delays caused by slow-moving/stagnant trains.

I, along with numerous other members of our community, have been stopped on more than one occasion and I, personally, have been late to various appointments due to these trains.

I am imploring that the CSX take notice and try to work together with us in alleviating this on-going issue in our area.

Thank you for your time,

Sincerely,

Kathy Farley

From: "FARRELL, JODI" <jf5623@att.com>
Sent: 6/25/18 11:55 AM
To: "CSX@the19thward.com" <CSX@the19thward.com>
Cc: "FARRELL, JODI" <jf5623@att.com>
Subject: STB docket number FD35522
undefinedundefined

Ms Cynthia Brown

Surface Transportation Board

395 E street SW

Washington DC 20423

The railroad track run just west of a major expressway (The Dan Ryan) which is the only highway to get from the south suburbs to the City of Chicago

I have been stopped multiple times in the last month trying to get to the Dan Ryan to get to work down town Chicago. Specifically I cross west to east at 111th, 103rd or 99th.

My sister also crosses at 111th in order to teach school and gets stuck quite often during the school year.

The trains are long and slow. I don't mind getting stopped for 5 -7 mins but 15-30 mins is crazy!

Either funding needs to happen to build bridges to go above or below the train tracks at major intersections or the length of the trains needs to change! OR a time table so we know at 7 pm, midnight and 6am the gates will be down for 20 minutes or some sort of communication so we can try and plan around it.

Thank you for the help.

Jodi

Jodi Farrell

M-847-274-8387

From: Elsa Fennema <efennema25@gmail.com>
Sent: 6/25/18 4:55 PM
To: "CSX@the19thward.com" <CSX@the19thward.com>
Subject: Delays due to trains
Ms Cynthia Brown:
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

We have experienced at least six delays in the last month alone due to repeated blockage of grade crossings on the CSX Elsdon Line. One time we sat there for an extreme amount of time. We missed a medical appointment due to no fault of our own. At other times we have been late for appointments or activities but did not completely miss them.

The recounting of this month is indicative of the delays we have experienced in the last 12-18 months. It is very frustrating for us as well as expensive and inconvenient. It certainly affects our quality of life.

I cannot tell you how frustrating this is. It also worries me because my husband has some health issues and such delays could mean life or death.

Our quality of life is really lessened by this lack of respect for our ability to have accessible ways to get medical help, groceries that won't spoil while we wait and wasting money by sitting there as we use gas to either cool or heat the car.

I refer you to STB docket number FD35522. Please help us improve this situation.

Thank you,
Elsa Fennema

From: "Glavas, Matthew" <GlavasM1@mwrd.org>
Sent: 6/25/18 4:30 PM
To: "CSX@the19thward.com" <CSX@the19thward.com>
Subject: STB docket number FD35522
undefinedundefined

Ms. Cynthia Brown

Surface Transportation Board

395 E Street, SW

Washington, DC 20423-0001

Ms. Brown,

The Elsdon line train are usually a long enough to block traffic from 103rd past 123rd street. I take the Metra electric at 124th and Ashland and live in Mt. Greenwood. I have seen traffic snarled and drivers become frustrated because there is no easy way around the train. It creates a very unsafe environment. I have been late for work and home late feeling utterly drained because of the tension of a stalled and long train.

Matt Glavas

From: Elizabeth Gradle <egradle@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: 6/25/18 4:38 PM
To: "CSX@the19thward.com" <CSX@the19thward.com>
Subject: CSX Eldon Line STB docket number FD35522
Ms. Cynthia Brown
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Re: STB docket number FD35522

Ms. Brown,

I'm writing to inform you of the impact that the continuous stoppages and delays caused by the repeated blockage of grade crossings by stopped trains or malfunctioning gates on CSX's Eldon Line have had on me. This railroad line is located at approximately 3000 west, parallel to Sacramento Ave.

I have to cross that track a minimum of two times a day during the week, on my way to and from work and as required by my weekend travels. I have been late to work at least once a week due to stopped or slowed trains between the hours of 7:30 and 8 a.m. I leave my house on 100th street and cross 99th street to drive 95th street to the office. Stopped trains have blocked the 103rd street tracks all the way through and including the 95th street tracks. With the next crossing to the south at 111th street and at 87th street to the north, this makes a three mile blockage of commuters. The times of the stoppages and slow downs vary, so there is no way to predict when I will get caught.

When possible, I u-turn out of the stopped traffic and head back to Western Avenue to guess in which direction the bulk of the train will lie. Invariably I guess wrong, finding that 103rd street is blocked if I head that way or 87th street is blocked if that's what the coin flipped says. I've taken to sending photos of the train to my co-workers so that they know I've once again been held hostage.

Just last Friday, I saw the train when I was on 99th street, heading northbound at a decent clip. It seemed to be traveling faster than the posted speed of 25 for cars, so I drove on California to 95th street, waited for a light and turned onto 95th street. The train was not only still crossing, but it had

slowed down to a crawl and took another 8 minutes, yes I timed it, before it cleared the crossing. It is not only stopped trains that block the intersection, the trains will all but stop and then inch their way along, creating backups all the way to Western Avenue. Once, when I left work sick during the middle of the day, I had to sit helplessly in traffic for almost 30 minutes at 11:30 a.m., clutching a bag and praying not to get sick in the car. And yesterday, having to detour around the closed crossing on 103rd street, I was late to my granddaughter's baptism due to another creeping train at 10:40 a.m. on 99th street.

It happens on all days of the week. It happens at all times of day. I have seen children jump the cars or run around the ends of trains to get to school on time. I have seen police cars and ambulances idling. This guerrilla warfare is affecting thousands of individuals each occurrence, not to mention lost time to the companies that employ them. It is creating dangerous situations as people get desperate to avoid the delays. Please hold CSX accountable for their actions.

Respectfully Yours,

Elizabeth Gradle
10045 South Campbell Avenue
Chicago, IL 60655-1065
egradle@sbcglobal.net

From: William Hendrickson <williamchendrickson@gmail.com>
Sent: 6/25/18 3:44 PM
To: CSX@the19thward.com
Subject: 111th street rail blockages
Ms. Brown,

Freight trains stopping across and blocking 111th street have been a problem for the 5 years I have lived in Mt Greenwood, Chicago. However, the last couple of months have been even worse than usual.

The traffic blockages have gotten so bad and so frequent that my family no longer expects to have supper with me on a given night. I like to walk home from the Metra and have to cross a few sets of freight tracks. Several times in the past month I could see the line cars extending from the west side of Mt. Greenwood all the way past the cemetery. I can often tell how long the train has been there based on the number of 112 buses stopped. If I can see the end of the train, in either direction, I have to walk down the track through the weeds and then cross at a safe distance ahead of or behind the train. I am usually not the only one. I come home muddy and late and angry.

I live in this city and I pay taxes to maintain these roads and sidewalks. I deserve the right to use them for something other than waiting on a train.

Thank you,

Bill Hendrickson
109th street

From: "Hennigan, Terry" <Terry.Hennigan@CHSD218.ORG>
Sent: 6/25/18 2:21 PM
To: "CSX@the19thward.com" <CSX@the19thward.com>
Subject: STB docket number FD35522
undefinedundefined

I have been stopped 5 times the last month both coming home and going to work. The street I travel is 111th Street. It never fails that right when rush hour starts there is a train that blocks the traffic for 6 blocks. People are cutting each other off going west and one of these days there will be a road rage situation that could be fatal. The traffic also affects the flow of traffic in the morning for the School for Agricultural Sciences. When these students are late, the parents are passing on the inside of the street which is not a lane to get to school on time. People are hot and frustrated and it has gotten so much worse this last month since summer began. I have a 10 minute commute to work and these trains have made me late on 3 days since April. I also have a sick mother and

My bigger concern are the first responders. This could be life or death for a sick person or losing your home if firefighters do not get there. Not only are the firetrucks and ambulances blocked at the tracks for stopped trains, my son who is a paramedic can't get to work. He is on his probation and if he is late, he will lose his job.

Ms. Terry Hennigan

From: Colleen Holland <colleenholland27@gmail.com>
Sent: 6/19/18 12:38 PM
To: CSX@the19thward.com
Subject: STB docket number FD35522
Dear Ms. Brown,

Over the course of the past few months, I have been stopped by the Elsdon line on at least three separate occasions. The first incident was by far the worst. We were stopped for over an hour. The train at 111th was stopped but did not have many train cars left. Because we were the first car, we waited. It began moving after 25 minutes, but then stopped with six cars left. We waited for another half hour and finally gave up. We were able to go home, go to the store, and then proceed to our original destination. We went to 115th instead of 111th but could see that the train was still stopped at 111th.

On the two other occasions, I was able to see that the train gates were down before I was too far in line. I waited at least 20-30 minutes. These delays made me late for work.

This is unacceptable and needs to be changed. I understand a small delay, but these go above and beyond "small."

--
Colleen McWalter

From: john jacob <jjacob@hesterdecorating.com>

Sent: Wednesday, June 20, 2018 7:27 PM

To: tellcsx@csx.com; tom_livingston@csx.com; mattoshea@the19thward.com; bill@billcunningham.com; jjacob14@gmail.com; repfranhurley@gmail.com; cwags5@comcast.net

Subject: Re: Xing 283 153J parked train June 19

FYI 5 am is when I woke up and saw this train. After speaking to my new neighbor today, they asked me if I woke up to the train at 2am that pulled up. That makes this train a 4 hour sitting.

John Jacob

Hester Decorating

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: john jacob <jjacob@hesterdecorating.com>

Date: 6/19/18 6:08 AM (GMT-06:00)

To: tellcsx@csx.com, tom_livingston@csx.com, mattoshea@the19thward.com, bill@billcunningham.com, jljacob14@gmail.com, repfranhurley@gmail.com, cwags5@comcast.net

Subject: Xing 283 153J parked train June 19

Train pulled up at 5am and just now left. 1 hour sit time.

I really don't get how a team can NOT do their job properly so often and still have a job.

I am really tired of being a monitor of CSX failures.

John Jacob

Hester Decorating

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

June 25, 2018

Ms. Cynthia Brown
Surface Transportation Board
395 East Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Re: **STB Docket Number FD35522**

Dear Ms. Brown:

My name is Julie L. Jacob and I live at 10318 South Sacramento Avenue, Chicago, Illinois which is very close to the intersection of 103rd Street and Sacramento Avenue, Chicago. As you know, CSX Transportation, Inc. ("CSX") owns and operates its rail lines that run parallel with Sacramento Avenue. I am writing to give you an update on the operations of CSX at said intersection. Every time my husband and I witness an idling train and/or blocked grade crossing, we notify CSX by e-mailing Tom Livingston who is the Regional Vice President of Midwest & West Government and Community Affairs. What follows is a summary of said e-mails / complaints regarding CSX since January 1, 2018:

Date	Complaint
January 4, 2018	Parked and idling train
January 15, 2018	Parked and idling train
January 28, 2018	Parked and idling train
January 29, 2018	Parked and idling train
January 30, 2018	Parked and idling train
January 31, 2018	Parked and idling train
February 2, 2018	Gates down with no train in sight; caused my daughter to be late for school
February 5, 2018	Parked and idling train
February 9, 2018	Gates down for over an hour and no train in sight; caused me to be late to work
February 12, 2018	Parked and idling train
February 13, 2018	Parked and idling train
February 15, 2018	Parked and idling train
February 22, 2018	Parked and idling train

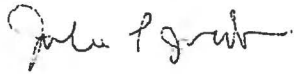
February 23, 2018	Parked and idling train
February 28, 2018	Parked and idling train
March 6, 2018	Parked and idling train
March 12, 2018	Parked and idling train
March 15, 2018	Parked and idling train
March 19, 2018	Parked and idling train
March 20, 2018	Parked and idling train
March 22, 2018	Parked and idling train
March 24, 2018 1:22 a.m.	Parked and idling train
March 27, 2018	Parked and idling trains (twice)
April 9, 2018	Parked and idling train
April 26, 2018	Parked and idling train
April 27, 2018	Parked and idling train
April 29, 2018	Parked and idling train
May 1, 2018	Parked and idling train
May 4, 2018	Blocked crossing; witnessed Chicago Fire Department trying to get across the intersection and being forced to take another route; blocked for 1 hour and 15 minutes during rush hour
May 7, 2018	Parked and idling train
May 8, 2018	Parked and idling train
May 9, 2018	Parked and idling train (8 minutes)
May 22, 2018	Parked and idling train
June 17, 2018	Parked and idling train
June 19, 2018	Parked and idling train
June 20, 2018 2:00 a.m.	Parked and idling train (5 hours)
June 23, 2018	Parked and idling train
June 24, 2018	Parked and idling train

Please note that there have been many issues with CSX prior to January 1, 2018; it is just too time consuming to list every complaint. Also, usually after we e-mail Tom Livingston, the train will move onto its destination. Which shows that the idling trains and blocked crossings is simply poor communication and management on behalf of CSX. However, it is causing unhealthy conditions and frustration in the homes of the residents along Sacramento Avenue.

As you can see, CSX is violating the rules of the Surface Transportation Board and they are not a "good neighbor" to the residents along Sacramento Avenue. CSX takes advantage of the City of Chicago in being allowed to block crossings and idle their trains in a residential area and something needs to be done to stop them. A tragedy is bound to happen under these circumstances.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss in detail the violations of CSX, I can be reached at (773) 633-3589.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Julie L. Jacob".

Julie L. Jacob
10318 South Sacramento Avenue
Chicago, IL 60655

From: Elise Lynn Jacobson <eliselynn.jacobson@gmail.com>

Sent: 6/18/18 5:09 PM

To: CSX@the19thward.com

Subject: Rail line issue STB docket number FD35522

With in the last month I have been late to work more than a handful of times due to completely stopped trains or extremely slow moving train lines. I recall one incident where the train was stopped that I had to go down well passed my normal route to find the train also stopped. I found found one street it had passed just enough for the gates to be open for cars.
STB docket number FD35522

Sent from my iPhone

From: "Keating, Barbara" <bkeating@walshgroup.com>
Sent: 6/19/18 8:40 AM
To: "CSX@the19thward.com" <CSX@the19thward.com>
Subject: FW: STB docket number FD35522 - Revised
undefinedundefined

Please use this one instead – I didn't want my work email on the letter.

I have had many, many problems with the trains on 111th. I cross those tracks daily at approximately 6 a.m. eastbound and sometimes have been stopped for at least 15 minutes. It wouldn't be so bad if the trains moved faster like on some tracks, however, these trains just travel at a slow pace for the most part. When this happens, it seems to cause a chain reaction all the way down 111th Street and I am ultimately late for work. I hate to leave earlier because I have done that and also caught the train. Coming home, westbound on 111th I have been stopped numerous times in the hours between 4 and 5:30 p.m. On two occasions I have actually been late for dentist and doctor's appointment. Even in the middle of the day when I had to leave work earlier for doctor's appointments I was stuck for at least 10 minutes by trains. It's one thing to wait for the train, but the traffic jams it causes lasts for an hour afterward. I have seen the train stop, I have seen police vehicles waiting to get through, I have seen an ambulance turn around. Buses are stuck there also. They are on a schedule and the delays you cause I'm sure throws them off, consequently throwing off the passengers waiting to catch those buses. 111th Street westbound narrows right after the tracks because of the cars being parked for the businesses, so everything turns into one lane. When one of your 15-20 minute trains hold that traffic up, it becomes a real mess even past Kedzie.

All of this in turn causes impatient people, careless drivers and road rage at people trying to get to the front of this huge line of cars. I understand the railroad is important, and I realize that sometimes the trains have to go through during traffic hours, but either send them through at a faster pace or even better, make the train a reasonable number of cars, especially during peak hours. Send the longer trains through in the middle of the night. The big problem is that for someone like me that takes 111th all the way through to the Dan Ryan, there are 4 train tracks to cross, two freight lines and two passenger. I can't say that I have ever caught all 4, but I have caught both freight lines in one morning.

Barbara Keating

10812 S. Drake

Chicago, IL 60655

From: Patricia Keehan <irishpate@yahoo.com>

Sent: 6/23/18 7:21 AM

To: csx@the19thward.com

Subject: Trains Blocking 115th St along Rockwell

Often at key times in the morning and dinner time, long trains either go very slowly or stop at these key busy times. It happens so often for people going trying to get to their destinations. It gets worse than ever before. It seem as though there should be a logical solution.

Patricia Keehan

From: "Mr. K" <robertkeeley555@gmail.com>

Sent: 6/25/18 10:07 PM

To: CSX@the19thward.com, "Matt O'Shea" <mattoshea@the19thward.com>

Subject: RE: The recent work at crossing just east of Kedzie on 10300 South.

- Comments should be submitted via email to CSX@the19thward.com by June 25, 2018 and must reference STB docket number FD35522

June 25, 2018

Ms. Cynthia Brown
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Thank you for this opportunity to write.

---- My general comment is: The work done on the tracks in various parts of the southwest portion of the city in the last 30 or so years is always top level work, but many times it is done after too long of a wait, in my view. That wait time in between fix-ups is too, too long.

---- Specifically, this past week and one days' work on the crossing just east of Kedzie is such a key location for those hurrying home from work during a Chicago evening "Rush hour." Our "Rush hour" after work is roughly 3:15 to about 6:45 five days a week. So, if you close down that crossing, people take their cars to the next crossing they can get through. So, as 103rd is closed, people will drive to 111th or to 99th and expect to get through. No way!!! terrible hassle.

---- The extra thousand cars or so who are now on these alternative routes, need help due to 99th street being a passage through the residential part of the community. So, along 99th, there are several stop signs to hold down speeds of average drivers on a 24 a day, daily basis all 7 days. BUT, on a day when 1000 or more extra cars are added onto 99th and another 500-1000 on 111th and another 1000-2000 on 95th, there needs to be traffic guides. This is because 103rd, 99th, 111th are heavily traveled rush hour roads.

---- In short, please station an extra worker out there at each of these stop signs on 99th from Kedzie (3200 west) to Western (2400 west) to enable people to glide through instead of every single car stopping at all three lights along the way. This prevents a waste of gasoline, extra pollution for the community and a horrible waste of time for we the driving commuters.

---- So, my point is simply: Either you and your department or the Evergreen Park Police can set up crossing guards to help people thru the nearest stop signs on those streets where people are driving to get around the impasse at 103rd. Starting this week some time, I hear, the same dimension of repair work will shift to another street in the community. Again, courteous traffic help will be needed. Forbidding all but "local" traffic, as was tried for one day last week, does not work.

Thank you,
Robert E. Keeley, Jr., Chicago IL 60643

From: "Kellam, Robert T." <Robert.Kellam@chicagopolice.org>

Sent: 6/25/18 3:50 PM

To: "csx@the19thward.com" <csx@the19thward.com>

Subject: STB # FD35522

undefined

Not only am I a resident in the area but also a first responder. On my own personal time in the past month I have been stopped by Elsdon line at a minimum 7 times which resulted in long wait times have had my preschool aged children late for school or for pick up. As a Sergeant in the 22nd District response times to area residents by both Police and Fire effected on a nightly basis by continual train traffic in the Elsdon line. It's a safety issue not only for the residents in receiving prompt response but also to 1st responders who are separated or delayed in receiving proper back up or necessary equipment due trains on the CSX Elsdon line.

Sgt. Robert Kellam #1180
Chicago Police Department
22nd District, 1st watch
312-485-0002 Cell
312-745-0570 022 Desk
2201 PAX

From: "Roberta S. Kleinman" <hobo9123@hotmail.com>

Sent: 6/25/18 5:59 PM

To: "CSX@the19thward.com" <CSX@the19thward.com>

Cc: Matt O'Shea <matthew.oshea@cityofchicago.org>, Marty Joyce <martyjoyce@the19thward.com>

Subject: Fw: CSX Delay

I passed along Bill Cunningham's notice to his constituents re: the CSX reporting termination issue to Anne Schaible last week because she had complained on her Facebook page about being frustrated by a stopped CSX train recently, on her way to a fetal emergency at Christ Hospital. When she read my message, she immediately sent the following email to Bill that same day.

I just wanted to make sure her complaint makes it into the package to be delivered to the STB at the end of the month, in case Bill hasn't yet forwarded it to you. Sorry it's not in the requested format, but Anne is a busy woman. I think the recipient at the STB will appreciate the substance and seriousness of her message, even if her form is a bit lacking.

Roberta Kleinman
(773) 779-3120

From: Margaret Klockowski <Margaret.Klockowski@cibc.com>
Sent: 6/25/18 3:33 PM
To: "CSX@the19thward.com" <CSX@the19thward.com>
Subject: CSX Railroad
undefinedundefinedundefined

Good Afternoon,

I have been delayed by the CSX train 5 times in the last 6 weeks. I have been detained 3 times by a stopped train. In one instance, the train did not move for over an hour causing me to drive to several different routes before I could get home. A trip that normally takes me 5 to 7 minutes took me over 30 minutes. Also, I was late for a meeting at work due to the stopped train. I sincerely hope something will be done in the near future to avoid these problems.

Regards,

Margaret Klockowski

Margaret Klockowski | Relationship Banker | Community Banking Group

3052 W 111th St. Chicago Illinois 60655 | Tel: 773-298-5913 | Fax: 773-445-7169 | Margaret.Klockowski@cibc.com

NMLS# 792422

From: Margie love <jlove10455@aol.com>
Sent: 6/25/18 4:04 PM
To: CSX@the19thward.com
Subject: STB docket number FD35522

Ms. Cynthia Brown
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Dear Cynthia:

As a resident of Chicago 60643 zip code the trains have been a source of regular frustration.

I work nearby in oak lawn Illinois Ana must cross the CSX line twice per day and have had numerous delays resulting in being late to work and being majorly delayed in arriving home. At times the train will just sit there, and sometimes it cruises by only to suddenly stop and start moving slowly backwards.

These delays are unpredictable and incredibly disruptive also for our shopping and other errands as well as for our social commitments.

We wish you could build a bridge over our roads or figure out another way to not allow the trains to block so many east/west streets so regularly.

Thank you
Margie and Jack Love
9920 s Winchester avenue
Chicago, IL. 60643
312-560-8780

Sent from my iPhone

From: Ed Maloney <ed@mjsillinois.com>

Sent: 6/20/18 9:34 AM

To: CSX@the19thward.com

Subject: Rail issues

The frequency and length of delays has cause not only inconvenience on 111th street but traffic backups westbound from kedzie to Western Avenue. Motorist attemp to form two lanes in an effort to cut in ahead of others who are in the proper lane. I have seen frustrated motorists actually drive up on the sidewalk to go around waiting cars. Police enforcement would be welcome as well as rescheduling the trains for midnight to 4AM.

Sent from my iPad

From: "Mathis, Donna" <Donna.Mathis@lockelord.com>
Sent: 6/18/18 12:48 PM
To: "CSX@the19thward.com" <CSX@the19thward.com>
Subject: CSX Trains!!!
undefinedundefined

The trains are totally out of control. My most recent encounter was just this morning on my way to work on 91st Street. This does tend to happen approximately three times per week. My most outrageous encounter was this past Saturday, 6/16/2018 between 3:30 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. on the way to my hair appointment. I was in the car with my grown daughter and 7 year old granddaughter. We had a double-train (one going one way, and as soon as that passed, the gates remained in the down position and the second train came going in the opposite direction as the first. Since we had not been there for the beginning of the first train, I have no idea how long that took in its entirety. We were waiting approximately 15 minutes for the finish of the first train. Once the second train began, we started counting the cars of the train. The second train was – kid you not, 180 car lengths! It was awful. It used to be there was never a train anywhere near 100 car lengths – but now there is never anything under 100. But the 180 car lengths was the absolute longest train I ever encountered! That is absurd! There has to be a law somewhere that they cannot have that many car lengths. And thank goodness the train did not stop on the tracks. I can't say for sure, but I would bet the first train may have stopped because it was going so very, very slow and it frequently happens that it stops at that location, and there was a long line of vehicles in front of us waiting for the train to pass. Oh, in case you didn't figure it out, I was, of course, late for my hair appointment!

Donna M. Mathis

Legal Secretary

Locke Lord LLP

111 South Wacker Drive

Chicago, IL 60606

T: 312-201-2261

[Internal: 7261]

F: 312-201-2555

donna.mathis@lockelord.com

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From: Don Matthews <donjmatt@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: 6/25/18 7:15 PM
To: "CSX@the19thward.com" <CSX@the19thward.com>
Subject: FD35522

Ms. Cynthia Brown
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Dear Ms. Brown,

I am writing this letter to convey the disruption and diminished quality of life the CSX R.R. has brought since taking over the the rail line abutting Sacramento ave. in the Mt. Greenwood IL. neighborhood.

The currant construction along 103rd street, which was supposed to be completed last week, caused me to spend exactly 30 minutes at noon today, trying just to cross the railroad tracks eastbound to the intersection at 94th and Kedzie causing a gridlock that extended all the way to 111th street south. I had to turn around and drive to 119th st. to cross the tracks and continue east.

For the past four years, we have tolerated trains idling directly across from our home for hours, belching diesel fumes and constant hissing or air leaks every few minutes. We have to keep our windows closed, and can't sit on our porch and enjoy nice weather because of these trains. I have surveillance cameras set up recording this for hours at a time.

Trains have been blocking the intersection for extended periods of time, causing cars to turn southbound on Sacramento, which is northbound one way, creating more safety concerns.

CSX has installed solid continuous welded track along Sacramento, while reducing the noise and vibration, the crew that tried to pick up the salvaged track got stuck in the mud directly across from my home. Next, another large truck came to pull the truck out sideways, creating almost two foot ruts in the grass. I've been cutting this grass for 19 years, but will not cut it anymore as the ruts would destroy my lawn mower, or worse yet result in an injury from tripping or falling in the tracks left from the CSX trucks.

As of this week trucks are still parking directly in front of my home as work on the intersection continues, leaving more tracks in the grass and idling for hours.

I am routinely awake around 3 am, by trains that stop in front of my home for extended periods, of time almost every night. When they start up and continue, they make all the brake, wheel noise and throttle up to pull the load from a stop, making all kinds of noise waking us up again.

Sincerely,

Don Matthews
10458 s. Sacramento ave.
CHGO. IL. 60655
708-752-5888

From: Billy Middendorf <worm14@gmail.com>
Sent: 6/21/18 8:43 AM
To: "CSX@the19thward.com" <CSX@the19thward.com>
Subject: 6.21.18
Train engine #4056
Signals go down at 828 and signals go up at 834.

William O. Middendorf

From: Billy Middendorf <worm14@gmail.com>

Sent: 6/18/18 12:50 PM

To: CSX@the19thward.com

Subject: CSX Elsdon Line Delays

I live just off 95th Street and Longwood in Chicago and drive to 90th and Harlem for work everyday since I changed jobs on November 6th, 2017.

I am happy to see that the crossings are being worked on. They needed the work.

I am not happy that there are still delays caused approximately four blocks west of Kedzie on 95th Street along with the chaos it causes at the Post Office intersection one block south of 95th on Kedzie and also the poor strip mall shop owners on the SE corner of 95th and Kedzie.

People will try everything to get around the train delay. U-Turns are most common. I have watched people cut through the strip mall to head south on Kedzie when the signals are down while a train passes. I have watched people use the Evergreen Park Police lot to get around this.

Besides the length of the trains which we all understand are necessary and that is not the topic here, how on earth is CSX able to push trains through EP during RUSH HOUR?

How can a freight train line explain the rush hour schedule necessity considering I am sure a study has been done for traffic numbers at certain times of the day on 95th street.

Personally, my wife and I split picking our son up from Daycare during the week. We are charged \$\$\$ if we dont pick our children up before 6pm. Now, I understand that its my issue to leave enough time to get to the school, (we all know that running late is the norm for working parents and picking up kids), but why should I be punished monetarily if a train stops me from continuing eastbound on 95th street for 5-10 minutes?

If we are late often enough a call is made to DCFS.

I am lucky that we have only been late a few times, but two times directly caused by the rush hour train is two times too many.

I dont have the specific dates but I have been stopped on the way home eastbound on 95th street 4 times since I started making this trip to Bridgeview every day.

I have also been stopped for trains in the morning headed westbound on 95th street...I would say approximately 6 times since November.

I am baffled every time.

--

Thanks,

Billy Middendorf

From: Gina OConnell <go350@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: 6/19/18 9:33 PM
To: "CSX@the19thward.com" <CSX@the19thward.com>
Subject: STB docket number FD35522

Dear Ms. Cynthia Brown

Surface Transportation Board-

I wanted to let your board know of a specific incident where I was late for work. I teach at a local grammar school, and I know I was not the only person late that morning. I typically leave for work around 7:15AM on a regular basis. There is a running joke about how close I work near my house and when people ask me where I work, I respond that I only work six minutes from my house unless I get stuck by a train, which does happen often and then who knows how long it takes.

On this particular day when I was late, I had left at my normal time of 7:15AM. The date that I and many other coworkers that live west of the railroad tracks were late for work occurred on Thursday, May 24th. I started out heading east on 91st Street. There were two trains moving in opposite directions. When I saw that one train was dramatically slowing to a stop, I turned around and headed toward 95th Street and California Avenue in Evergreen Park. While at the light, I could see the vehicles backed up almost to the light, so I continued south hoping there would be a different main corridor open so I could get to work and get ready for my school day. At 99th and California Avenue, I couldn't even turn east, since the vehicles were backed up until California Avenue, so I continued to 103rd. I turned east onto 103rd Street and waited along with other vehicles for the train to unpark and move. After the train cleared the 103rd tracks, it still took three light changes to get across the railroad tracks. That morning it took me forty-five minutes to get to work.

For those of us who live and work on the south side, we do because we don't expect or plan to have a long commute to work. If we wanted a long commute, we'd change our place of work or residence out of the suburbs.

Please consider the many suburban residents affected by the CSX train stoppages.

Sincerely,

Gina O'Connell

From: "Daniel O'Hara" <dohara286@gmail.com>
Sent: 6/20/18 1:24 PM
To: CSX@the19thward.com
Subject: STB Docket Number FD35522
Ms. Cynthia Brown
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington D.C. 20423-0001

Re: STB Docket Number FD35522

Dear Ms. Brown:

My name is Daniel O'Hara. I am a resident of Evergreen Park, Illinois. In May, a long ruining CSX train at 94th & Kedzie made me late for work as I could make the other bus that I take to work. I had to wait for a later one. This situation happened during the afternoon rush period.

I finally had to deal with a situation in the fall of 2016 when the gates went down at 94th and Kedzie and I had to get off the CTA bus and walk almost six blocks to my apartment as a result of these gates going down despite no train.

Daniel O'Hara
Evergreen Park, IL

From: "Mary O'Heir" <oeirster@gmail.com>
Sent: 6/19/18 10:48 AM
To: CSX@the19thward.com
Subject: CSX Eldon
Ms. Cynthia Brown
Surface Transportation Board
[395 E Street, SW](#)
[Washington, DC 20423-0001](#)

Ms. Brown,

I am writing to tell you about my experiences with the CSX Eldon line. In the past week alone, I have been stopped 3 times, preventing me from getting to work on time and forcing me to be late for a doctor's appointment. I would say that I am stopped by this line at the very least 3-4 times a week. It is extremely frustrating and has greatly impacted my life and caused me much frustration.

Hopefully your company cares enough about people and our community to resolve this issue, as I know I am just one of many people in our community who deal with this frustration on a daily basis.

Thank you.

Mary O'Heir

From: "Office" <office@bethanyunion.com>
Sent: 6/25/18 3:44 PM
To: <CSX@the19thward.com>
Subject: STB docket number FD35522
undefinedundefined

I am a resident at 109th & Fairfield Ave, Chicago 60655.

My issue with the CSX Elsdon Line is the amount of time the gates are down at 111th, whether the gates malfunction or whether the train sits. Especially when you arrive and the train is sitting for an inordinate amount of time, it's difficult to know if you should go around it from the north or the south.

About a year ago, I tried to get around it going south and had to go all the way to 127th Street from 111th. Very inconvenient!

I am not one to go around gates that are down, either and I will drive to 115th or 103rd, although I notice a lot of people who do go through, including the police – no one getting tickets on the other side. When the gates are malfunctioning maybe CSX could have some kind of alarm and override that would alleviate that problem after about 5 – 10 minutes.

Now on top of it, they're working on the tracks for the next two weeks, and we still need to go around. Eldon's 111th St tracks seem to be the better of all their tracks from 127th to 103rd...

Terry Peterson

From: Bill Cunningham <cunningb33@msn.com>
Sent: 6/26/18 3:41 PM
To: "csx@the19thward.com" <csx@the19thward.com>
Subject: CSX delays

Ms. Cynthia Brown
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

On Wednesday, June 20, 2018 at 7:05 am I was enroute to Christ Hospital.

91st St was blocked at Trumbull by a stopped train.

Kedzie was blocked at 94th by the same stopped train.

87th blocked as well.

My delay was 15 minutes.

That could mean the difference between life and death for a fetus in distress.

Blocking access to a hospital, and delaying emergency responders is no matter to take lightly.

This is truly a public health emergency.

Anne Schaible, MD
aschaible2011@aol.com

From: Sue Kerwin <smkerwin@kellyburkerep36.org>

Sent: 6/27/18 9:17 AM

To: CSX@the19thward.com

Subject: Re: STB docket number FD35522

Monday June 18th

I received a call this morning from a constituent who reported that a train was stopped at the 95th and Rockwell crossing at approximately 6:00 a.m. for almost an hour without moving. With 103rd Street traffic being re-routed due to the construction, the process to get around the train was a nightmare.

On Tue, Jun 26, 2018 at 12:31 PM, Sue Kerwin <smkerwin@kellyburkerep36.org> wrote:

Ms. Cynthia Brown

Surface Transportation Board

395 E Street, SW

Washington, DC 20423-0001

STB docket number FD35522

TOOK ME FROM NOON - 12 40 - SAT - (06-23-18) TO GET FROM COUNTY FAIR / 108th WESTERN TO 97th
LAWNDALE/EP - SINCERELY HOPE ALL POLITICIANS - THEY KNOW WHO THEY ARE - THAT HAVE TAKEN &
CONTINUE TO TAKE PERKS/DONATIONS FROM RR LOBBYISTS ENJOY THEIR 30 PIECES OF SILVER IN PAYMENT
FOR RUINING QUALITY OF LIFE FOR SO MANY !!!!! paul serritella

Date: Fri, Jun 22, 2018 at 10:53 AM

Subject: RR

TRAFFIC BACKED UP ALL FOR DIRECTIONS - 95th KEDZIE - THIS REALLY SUCKS !!!! Paul Serritella

--
Sue Moriarty Kerwin
Legislative Assistant
State Representative Kelly Burke
5144 W. 95th Street

From: Maura Shanahan <shanahmh@gmail.com>
Sent: 6/25/18 3:24 PM
To: CSX@the19thward.com
Subject: Elsdon Train Line
Ms. Cynthia Brown
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington DC 20423-0001

Dear Ms. Brown,

This letter is in reference to STB docket number FD35522. My name is Maura Duhig, and I am a teacher in LaGrange Park, IL. Every morning, I take 87th Street from Western Avenue to Cicero Avenue. I typically leave my house around 6:45, and am crossing the railroad tracks at Sacramento around 6:55. In the month of May alone, I encountered a stopped train on three separate occasions, forcing me to turn around and go to 79th Street to cross. I now know to immediately turn around, as I have waited at these trains in the past for sometimes up to 20 minutes, which caused me to be late to work.

In addition, during the month of April, I missed a doctor's appointment for my infant son as a result of a stopped train at 87th and Sacramento. It is difficult to schedule appointments, and I had to wait three weeks before I could get him in after cancelling due to the train.

Thank you,
Maura Duhig
773-369-5733

From: "Spreitzer, Kathleen" <kspreitzer@d123.org>
Sent: 6/26/18 10:54 AM
To: CSX@the19thward.com
Subject: CSX

Good Morning,

At approximately 12:00 pm yesterday a train stopped on the CSX line, causing a complete and utter traffic nightmare, given that 103rd is not viable. Traffic throughout Evergreen Park was deadlocked. I had to turn around on 95th Street, head down California, snake my way to 111th, which was also a nightmare, all to get to 87th and SW Hwy. It took me *over an hour* to get to work, when typically it takes about 15 minutes.

This is not the first time this has happened. Even before the work on 103rd, it seems that CSX schedules exceedingly long, slow trains at around 8:00 am during the work week (on average I would say 2-3 times per week). Again, these trains disrupt traffic from 103rd in West Beverly through Evergreen Park, making travel anywhere near 95th and Kedzie a complete and utter nightmare. On more than one occasion, I have seen an ambulance attempt to get through the gridlock. It is undoubtedly an unsafe situation.

I do hope these issues can be rectified. There is no reason to feel like a prisoner in your own neighborhood, nor should there be the risk of someone not being able to be transported quickly and safely to either Little Company of Mary or Advocate Medical Center.

Thank you,
Katy

--

Dr. Kathleen Spreitzer, Principal
Hometown School, SD 123
8870 South Duffy
Hometown, IL 60456
(708) 423-7360

From: a1656@aol.com
Sent: 6/25/18 3:59 PM
To: CSX@the19thward.com
Subject: CSX

Have waited between 10 to 30 minutes at the crossing on 99th St and also on 103rd especially during the 3 - 5 p.m. hours. Not only is the wait long the maintenance of the tracks is really poor as well. I know they make lots of money but seem to not care about the condition of their tracks.

Antoinette M. Stewart

From: Joe Stoiber <joe60302@yahoo.com>
Sent: 6/26/18 1:55 PM
To: "CSX@the19thward.com" <CSX@the19thward.com>
Subject: STB Docket number FD35522
Hello 19th Ward &

Miss Cynthia Brown
Surface Transportation Board
395 East Street, SW
Washington DC, 20423-0001

My unpleasant CSX experience was on June 25th at 11:25 am.

Traveling west on 99th street (near California), traffic came to a complete stop. I waited 10 minutes and decided to go shopping at a local store.

After a 20 minute shopping adventure, I tried again crossing the train tracks, this time at 95th street. Yikes, I was still delayed.

Therefore I decided to perform one last errand. After completing this errand, I was able to cross the tracks. This was 30-40 minutes of delays that fortunately I was able to make the most out of my time.

Best Regards

Joe Stoiber
(M) 773-590-4305

From: Kevin Sullivan <kevsull49@yahoo.com>

Sent: 6/25/18 6:37 PM

To: "CSX@the19thward.com" <CSX@the19thward.com>

Subject: CSX

Several times probably at least five the train has stopped. I was a city paramedic so I am well aware of delay that this can do to all emergency responders. I notify the OEMC so they can ascertain the best way to circumvent the train. Also I had to go to 95th street to get around train. Traffic is extremely congested when people are forced to redirect to find an opportunity to cross. Again Christ Hospital is a Trauma Center and Ambulances can face critical delays that could be the difference of life and death.

From: Bill Cunningham <cunningb33@msn.com>
Sent: 6/26/18 3:03 PM
To: "csx@the19thward.com" <csx@the19thward.com>
Subject: Train response

Ms. Cynthia Brown
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

The CSX delays have been a mess for years w no resolution in sight. In the past two weeks I have been delayed 15+ minutes each time at the tracks on both 91st and 95th.

If someone had to access either of the hospitals it would have been a disaster.

With both hospitals on 95th a speedy resolve to this must be in play.

No time to waste anymore as I see it.

I have participated in the survey in the past. It does little as I see it. I've also emailed CRX and have heard their party line.

Dan Thompson
9158 S. Bell
Chicago

From: Jennifer Toth <jrt71@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: 6/24/18 11:15 PM
To: "CSX@the19thward.com" <CSX@the19thward.com>
Subject: STB docket number FD35522
Ms. Cynthia Brown
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

The trains on the Elson line over the past 12 to 18 months have been horrible. I keep reading information about the line and how they are supposed to be improving and I have not noticed any improvements. During the past 18 months have been stopped by gates that are down with no trains at least 5 times. I have also been stuck by trains that have lasted over 10 minutes approximately 9 times. I have been late to work because of the trains 3 times and have missed appointments after work approximately 5 times. I repeatedly have to go out of my way to maneuver around these issues. Every since the Elson line sold, train traffic in our community of Mt. Greenwood has been a nightmare.

Regards, Jennifer.

From: Henrietta Vepstas <mailvepstas@gmail.com>

Sent: 6/25/18 3:26 PM

To: CSX@the19thward.com

Subject: STB docket number FD35522

In the past few months I have experienced delays due to the railroad crossing. Last week I was late for my lawyer's appointment. Arrived late for an appointment with my financial advisor. Other times had to sit out waiting for the crossing of trains, gritting my teeth, inhaling car exhaust, and hoping to be at the proper destination on time.

Hope this issue is resolved soon,

Sincerely,

Henrietta Vepstas
9432 S. Longwood Dr.
Chicago, IL 60643

From: Michael Whealan <whealan@mac.com>

Sent: 6/18/18 12:20 PM

To: CSX@the19thward.com

Subject: June 18th, 2018

Here is my report:

I was unable to cross the tracks at 91st and 87th street between Western Ave. and California this morning at approximately 6:10 am

After waiting 10 minutes without the train budging I was forced to turn around, drive back to Western, travel north to 83rd so I could drive underneath the underpass. The train still had not moved by the time I drove under it and traffic congestion was terrible in all directions because everyone else was doing the same thing as I.

This inconvenience caused me to be late for work and put a mark on my record.

My employer keeps track of tardiness and inexcused absences... similar to getting a "demerit" and nobody likes to get a mark for something that isn't their fault.

Thank you,
Mike Whealan

Mike Whealan
mikewhealan.photoshelter.com
773-551-9079

WHEALAN

From: Jeanne Williamson <jmwchirdh@yahoo.com>

Sent: 6/25/18 5:05 PM

To: CSX@the19thward.com

Subject: STB FD35522

I live east of the railroad tracks and I work west of the railroad tracks. I work in a dental office that is a few blocks west of the tracks. Many of our patients travel from the same location as I do. Many patients on a daily basis are late for their appointments because of the train crossing. The trains are either stopped or extremely long. It is a daily and constant interruption of our schedule. The frequency of these inconvenient stoppages and lengthy trains is very maddening. It is a constant intrusion of our daily work schedule

Jeanne Williamson