



BARTLETT FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

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247935

June 4, 2019

Ms. Cynthia T. Brown
Chief, Section of Administration Office of Proceedings
U.S. Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, Southwest
Washington, DC 20023

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
June 12, 2019
Part of
Public Record

Re: STB Finance Docket 36299 Soo Line Railroad Company Petition for Declaratory Order and Preliminary Injunction - Interchange with Canadian National

Dear Ms. Brown:

The Bartlett Fire Protection District is writing to express our sincere concerns for the lives and property of our residents. These grave concerns are in regard to the at-grade crossings on Spaulding, West Bartlett Road, and Stearns Road. As of late, we have experienced an increase in the number of delays when responding to significant emergencies on the West side of the CN line in Bartlett, IL. These delays are specifically tied to the increase in the number of times this crossing has been blocked.

We have all been taught and are well aware of the importance of time when responding to heart attack and stroke victims. Every minute of delay leads to a dramatic decrease in the survival rates of both of these common emergencies for our ever-growing elderly population. Relocating the interchange operations from Spaulding Road would be extremely beneficial medically to each and every resident on the West side of the CN.

Minutes also matter when it comes to a fire. You may not be aware that fire doubles in size every minute. There are numerous YouTube videos demonstrating this fact. Here is one such video. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lqiTmSsuDI4> Homes today are constructed and furnished with materials that burn faster and hotter. While homes can be rebuilt, trapped occupants can not.

By way of background, our West side fire station is located less than one-quarter of a mile from the at grade crossing on West Bartlett Road. It is staffed full time with firefighter/paramedics fully equipped to begin lifesaving care, fire suppression or rescue. The station site was chosen purposefully as it is centrally located serving the west side of our district. The construction was complete prior to CN's acquisition of the EJ & E line. In fact, the EJ & E traffic was almost non-existent at the time of our decision.

Currently, there are more than 1,300 homes west of the CN rail line. With the length of trains today, the Bartlett Fire Protection District is at times effectively prohibited from doing their sworn duty as they are often cut off from any access to this area with the grades at Spaulding, West Bartlett and Stearns all blocked. Completely going around

James R. McCarthy
President

Frank Giovannelli
Secretary

Jay P. Langfelder
Treasurer

Larry Robbins
Trustee

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Trustee

these grade crossings adds an additional 8 miles, which roughly translates into an additional 17 to 18 minutes of response time.

While an over/underpass would alleviate the problem, it is not a viable option due to cost. The timing of such a thing would be decades away. The people in our town and our local government officials are well aware that rail traffic is part of the history of our community. We have worked closely with METRA to accommodate our emergency vehicle traffic in our downtown area.

On behalf of the residents of the Bartlett Fire Protection District, I sincerely ask that you give strong consideration to moving the interchange operations from Spaulding Road in Bartlett. Relocating the interchange would allow our fire service personnel to be more effective in their efforts to save lives and property. We respectfully submit this and greatly appreciate the opportunity to present our concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James R. McCarthy", with a stylized flourish at the end.

James R. McCarthy
Board President



GROW NG

June 12, 2019

Re: FD 32699

To whom it may concern,

Please consider this as an attestation that the attached document labelled "Bartlett Fire," has in fact been sent to the following individuals. Should you have any questions in regard to this matter, Please feel for contact me via e-mail at jmccarthy@bartlettfire.com or phone at 630-632-6468.

Respectfully,

DocuSigned by:

 5D2584ADF5FA4B9...

James R. McCarthy

President

Board of Trustees

Bartlett Fire Protection District

<u>Code Desc</u>	<u>Filed By</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Email</u>	<u>Filed For</u>
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Party Of Record	Rifkind, David F.	Stinson Llp 1775 Pennsylvania Avenue Nw, Suite 800 Washington, DC 20006 Tel: 202-785-9100 Fax:	David.Rifkind@Stinson.Com	Soo Line Railroad Company D/B/A Canadian Pacific
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Party Of Record	Webster, Charles W	Canadian Pacific 11306 West Franklin Ave Franklin Park, IL 60131 Tel: 630-860-4161 Fax:	Charles_Webster@Cpr.Ca	Soo Line Railroad Company D/B/A Canadian Pacific