



# BARTLETT FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

234 N. Oak Avenue • Bartlett, Illinois 60103 • Phone: 630-837-3701 • Fax: 630-837-4052

248284

Ms. Cynthia T. Brown  
Chief, Section of Administration  
Office of Proceedings  
U.S. Surface Transportation Board  
395 E Street, Southwest  
Washington, DC 20423

ENTERED  
Office of Proceedings  
August 2, 2019  
Part of  
Public Record

RE: Interchange

Dear Ms. Brown,

The Bartlett Fire District (District) serves the Village of Bartlett and surrounding unincorporated communities and provides an all-inclusive fire, rescue, and advanced life support service to the District's residents.

The District appreciates the opportunity to express our concerns over the Spaulding Rd Interchange (Interchange). The District continues to see trains blocking this roadway which delays emergency response to the community west of the Interchange. The residents in this area have expressed their concerns on numerous occasions over the delayed response after dialing 911. These residents receive emergency services from their closest fire station which is located one (1) block east of the Interchange. If the train is blocking this roadway, emergency personnel are forced to backtrack and find an alternative route that adds an additional eight (8) to ten (10) minutes to the response time. In critical emergencies, this additional time can prove life-threatening.

According to Underwriters Laboratories (UL) and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Fire Research Divisions, fires in modern homes are increasingly becoming more dangerous. A fire in a modern home doubles in size every minute, and completely flashes over, resulting in an unsurvivable environment, in less than 5 minutes. It is vital that fire crews are not delayed in their response to these emergencies.

The American Heart Association (AHA) ranks heart disease is the No. 1 killer worldwide, and stroke ranks second globally. Even when those conditions don't result in death, they cause disability and diminish the quality of life. Through their extensive research and evidence-based best practices, the AHA recommends the immediate intervention of advanced life support take place. The difference between life and death and quality of life come down to seconds. It is vital that emergency medical crews are not delayed in their response to these emergencies.

As a party of record, the District received a July 19, 2019 response addressed to you from Stinson in regard to previous communications on this Interchange. On page 5, the letter suggests that specific interchange blockage data would be preferred. Analyzing emergency service data can only point to statistics until they result in a tragedy. The realities in our world are loss of life or loss of property. Being able to respond in the most expedient fashion, without undue delays, is our mission.

The District understands the benefits of the railway and how the industry shapes our lives. From freight trains that carry supplies and goods across the country for commerce to passenger rails that help people get where they need to go, trains touch every aspect of our lives. The District also understands the benefits of response times and how that has a significant impact on the outcomes in fire and emergency medical incidents. We must work together to improve quality of life. The District asks the U.S. Surface Transportation Board to please consider moving the Interchange to a different location that does not impact public safety. The District and the residents should no longer be subjected to long delays caused by these trains stopped and blocking the roadway. If you have additional questions or require additional call information, please contact our headquarters station at 630-837-3701.

Thank you

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William Gabrenya". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "William" being more prominent than the last name "Gabrenya".

Fire Chief  
William Gabrenya

August 2, 2019

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

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

Dear Ms. Brown:

The Parties of Record were notified of this additional filing via an email sent at  
4:12p.m. August 2, 2019.

Sincerely,

Samuel V. Hughes  
Senior Managements Analyst  
Village of Bartlett