

FD 35952

243230

Abe Scheppler

212 North Owen

Mount Prospect, IL 60056

zombieman1000@gmail.com

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
May 18, 2017
Part of
Public Record

The Great Lakes Basin Transportation project needs to be denied. The project is not offering any new solutions to the alleged freight problems in Chicago. Adding a new track is a backwards looking solution that does not look forward to what things may look like. A recent article in Freight Trail Works <http://www.freightrailworks.org/innovation/innovations-that-have-strengthened-railroads-muscle/>, states "Thirty-five years ago, the average freight train could safely haul 2,200 tons at once. That was a lot of cargo! Yet even though the basic structure of a train has remained the same, today a single freight train can carry even more — a whopping 3,600 tons, on average." It further states "Today, the average coal car can carry approximately 20 percent more coal than in 1990." And "The Transportation Technology Center's Heavy Axle Load Research Program studies ways to safely increase the maximum weight a train can carry. By examining the effects of heavier loads on track and equipment, railroads can improve the design of equipment components and track structure and procedures for inspection and maintenance. The program's research allowed railroads to implement 36-ton axle loads — an increase of 9 percent — safely." We have no idea what other improvements that will occur in freight transport. We already have increased the amount trains can carry, reducing the number of trains needed. Other changes such as market shifts, the Panama Canal, and other issues are further changing the freight market in Chicago. We need a forward looking solution, not a more of the same solution. Please deny this project.