

Illinois House of Representatives

800 West Central Road
Mount Prospect, IL 60056
224-764-2440 / 224-635-2010
RepHarris@yahoo.com



221-N Stratton Building
Springfield, IL 62706
217-782-3739

242953

DAVID HARRIS
State Representative

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
April 19, 2017
Part of
Public Record

13 April 2017

The Honorable Ann D. Begeman
Acting Chair
United State Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street NW
Washington, DC 20423-001

Reference: Docket No. FD 36075

Dear Chair Begeman and Members of the Surface Transportation Board:

I am writing to you regarding the above-referenced matter that is currently before the Board for its consideration and action. The matter has been brought to the Board by the Illinois State Toll Highway Authority (ISTHA). The ISTHA is seeking declaratory judgement allowing the exercise of eminent domain as provided under state law. Eminent domain would be used to acquire permanent and temporary easements for the construction of five bridges over railroad tracks in the vicinity of O'Hare International Airport.

The ISTHA has for years been planning on establishing a western access to O'Hare, which is currently only accessible from the east. The project is known as the Elgin O'Hare Western Access Project (EOWA), and it is part of the O'Hare Modernization Program that the City of Chicago initiated a number of years ago. Both passenger and freight ingress and egress to O'Hare from the west would provide benefits for the entire surrounding region. The Illinois Governor's Advisory Council estimated that there would be a significant positive economic impact from an O'Hare western access point. The suburban communities west of O'Hare could see many thousands of permanent jobs located throughout the area.

I hope the Board will act quickly in reviewing this matter. The project has my strong support, and I know that many other local leaders throughout the region feel the same. Thank you for your positive consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Harris", written over a horizontal line.

DAVID HARRIS
State Representative