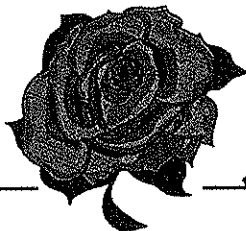
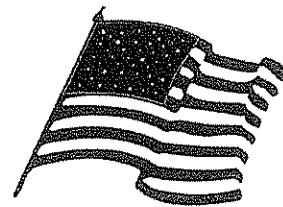


Ronald M. Serpico
MAYOR



Village of Melrose Park



Mary Ann Paolantonio Salemi
CLERK

- TRUSTEES -

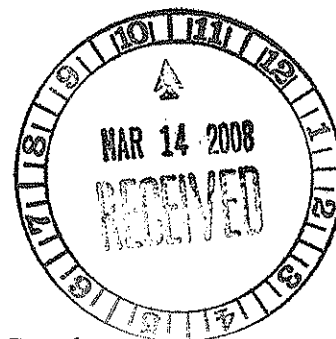
Jaime Anguiano
Arturo J. Mota

John Conteduca
Anthony J. Prignano

Cathy Cossident-Italia
Mary Ramirez-Taconi

March 13, 2008

Ms. Anne K. Quinlan, Esq.
Acting Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
Office of the Secretary
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423



Re: STB Finance Docket No. 35087, Canadian National Railway Company and Grand Trunk Corporation – Control – EJ&E East Company

Dear Ms. Quinlan:

I am writing to notify you of the Village of Melrose Park's support of the CN's purchase of the EJ&E. The Chicago region is congested with freight traffic and projections have freight increasing by unbelievable percentages over the next twenty years. I do not see how the current transportation system can handle this increase.

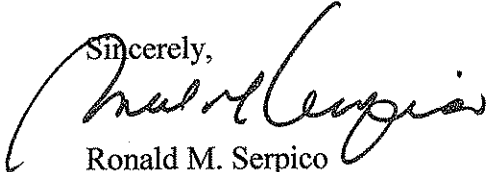
West Cook County Illinois handles a lot of the freight traffic in the region. And while we have benefitted from development and jobs due to the freight industry, we do have our share of issues. I understand from reading the newspapers that communities along the EJ&E are demanding mitigation. I understand where they are coming from in that regard. However, Melrose Park has one of the most unsafe grade-crossings in the state. Due to the number of accidents at this crossing, the Illinois Commerce Commission requires train horns to be sounded at this crossing. More freight and Metra service crosses at this location than what is being proposed along the EJ&E. We have been working with the Illinois Department of Transportation and the Illinois Commerce Commission to have a grade separation constructed at this location. The need of grade separations has been dealt with on a state level in Illinois and I hope the STB will not circumvent this process. It would be a travesty if the grade separation we have been working on in Melrose Park is surpassed and delayed because of this process.

And just as the communities along the EJ&E are looking for more transit service in their area. The communities along the Indian Harbor Belt have been working to bring Metra service to our region. A region that is already dense with population and jobs. Freeing up freight capacity along the IHB due to this transaction may open up this possibility for us.

I ask the STB that it consider all the regional benefits this transaction can provide and the greater good it can do for transportation in our region, and the relief and opportunities it can provide to the communities in west Cook County, such as Melrose Park.

Thank you for allowing me to comment on this transaction.

Sincerely,



Ronald M. Serpico
Mayor

Surface Transportation Board

CN-EJ&E EIS - FD-35087

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