



GRANT PARK FIRE DISTRICT

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June 2, 2016

Honorable Daniel R. Elliott III, Chairman
United States Surface Transportation Board
Docket No.: FD 35952 – Great Lakes Basin Transportation Corp., LLC Project
395 E. Street SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

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OFFICE OF CHAIRMAN

Dear Mr. Elliott,

The Grant Park Fire Protection District (District) Board of Trustees (Board), serving the town of Grant Park, Illinois and the surrounding community, would like to share concerns that we expect to be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement for the Great Lakes Basin Transportation, Inc. project. The concerns of the Board involve the safety of the citizens of and those traveling through the District as well as the District First Responders and First Responders providing aid to the District.

Our concerns are as follows;

- 1) With the stated objective of the proposed line, to avoid major population centers, we assume freight on the rail line and possibly the utility easement will include hazardous materials. An assessment of potential risks along with a mitigation strategy should be developed. It should include potential impacts on people, property and the environment in the event of an incident.
- 2) Development of the rail line and utility easement will add an undetermined number of At Grade Crossings and Private Road Crossings to our response area. This could create an increased safety risk for people, property and the environment. Due to the prospective higher probability of an incident, an analysis is needed to determine the probability of the types of incidents that can occur and the corresponding emergency response necessary including the number of personnel and types of equipment needed to properly handle the incident.
- 3) Due to increased risks noted in the first two points, there will be a need for increased training of first responders. This will require an analysis of the type and level of training necessary.
- 4) In the event of a significant incident neighboring departments in our county-wide MABAS (Mutual Aid Box Alarm System) and potentially regional resources will be called upon to

assist. As such, an analysis will be required to determine the personnel and their skill/training requirements, and equipment needs to properly handle such incidents.

- 5) The rail line/utility easement will potentially cause disruption and delays to movement of emergency vehicles due to At Grade Road Crossings and Private Road Crossings. This could include delays during normal operation of the railroad as well as during the construction and maintenance phases of the line, easement and crossings. We would expect information from GLBT regarding the frequency of trains and duration of crossing blockages.
- 6) Introduction of the rail line and utility easement in our District could increase call volume. Information from GLBT to help the District determine personnel and equipment needs would be expected, information that would help first responders to properly and safely handle the calls.
- 7) It would be expected that the railroad and utility companies be required to share information with local authorities, including first responders, as to the nature of contents passing through their Districts, especially unusual or hazardous materials.
- 8) It would be expected that railroad and utility companies have in place a comprehensive emergency response team for immediate consultation and deployment to ensure the timely arrival of resources in the event of an incident.
- 9) A review would be expected of Federal and State Safety Agencies to ensure that all safety related roles and responsibilities are in place to work with local safety agencies, including first responders, during the planning, construction and operation phases of the rail line, rail port and utility easement.
- 10) Drainage issues not properly addressed could pose access problems with heavy equipment to some areas of the District.
- 11) Increased demand for emergency medical services during the construction phase of the rail line due to the influx of temporary construction workers could be an issue. It would be expected that an analysis would be performed to determine the nature and extent of the increase as well as possible solutions to providing those services.
- 12) Will there be any tax revenue or any other revenue expected from the GLBT line for Kankakee County or Townships? A source of revenue to cover potential increased costs of increased services by the District should be determined.
- 13) The District's budget is based on equalized assessment valuation (EAV) of property taxes. Since a substantial amount of land in our District will be taken out of farm production, the effect on the EAV could be profound.
- 14) As previously mentioned, a significant amount of land in our District will be taken out of farm production. The negative effect on property values could be profound.

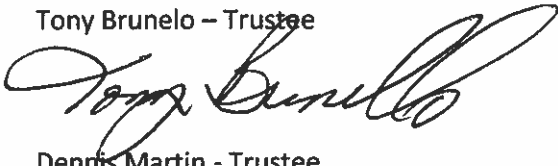
The concern of the Grant Park Fire Protection District is the safety of the citizens and our first responders. We would expect and appreciate the attention and response of the Surface Transportation Board to the issues expressed in this letter.

Sincerely,

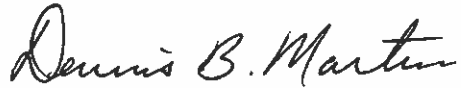
Gene Rademacher – Trustee

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Tony Brunelo – Trustee

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Dennis Martin - Trustee

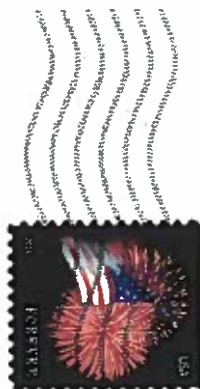
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Grant Park Fire Protection District

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CHIEF OF POLICE

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