

Below are points to consider specific to my role as Principal of Lowell Middle School.

- Transportation systems
  - Busing routes - Longer travel times to school with crossings, every minute a bus waits for a train is \$.50 additional cost to the district.
- Safety
  - Proximity to the Middle School (The train is proposed to run in the corn field between our green cross country field and the stop sign at Belshaw with double tracks). This is much closer physically to the building than appears on the map. Mitigation may include safety barriers of some sort to prevent students from accessing the tracks.
  - Emergency Services to LMS. They may be delayed to the MS due to the track crossings between the responders and the MS.
  - Emergency service in Lowell are not equipped to handle a derailment or accident happening next to our property.
  - The trains will be carrying various types of hazardous wastes at times, the proximity of those hazardous wastes to students, especially in case of an accident, is of serious concern. This will need to be addressed in our school crisis plan and additional resources will need to be acquired with our own money to be prepared for this type of crisis. This is of grave concern if the hazardous waste includes nuclear waste from plants to the east traveling to storage in the west.
- Land Use
- Recreation
  - Sporting events, recess and PE classes will all be impacted by the noise and possible safety due to the close proximity for participants, staff, and any visitors.
- Biological Resources
  - We have grasses and other plants that could be affected in addition to the human biological effects of the possible air and water impacts
- Water Resources
  - In the event of a spill, we are on a well (just like the rest of Lowell - either the town well or individual wells) and once that water is contaminated, we have no other viable source of water for drinking, heating/cooling, kitchen/lunch services, irrigation, etc.
- Navigation
- Geology and Soils
  - The train and tracks may have an impact on our current soil composition or our soil composition may not be viable for running a train and track through. (An example may be the natural wear and decomposition of our back drive that we have already experienced with car traffic. Would something similar occur with the tracks possibly leading to instability of the tracks and a higher probability of derailment or accidents? Our current building is only 6 years old and we have needed to reconstruct the drive multiple times.)
- Air Quality and Climate Change
  - The Mayo Clinic has a study showing students living close to a railroad showed an increase in pediatric asthma.
  - We are also educating a reduction in our carbon footprint as demonstrated with the solar panels (currently installed) and wind turbine that will be installed, this negates those ideas.
- Noise and Vibration
  - Focus of middle school students in general as well as those with disabilities such as ADHD.
  - Autistic students can be extremely sensitive to sound and vibration.

- Energy Resources
  - Our solar arrays may be negatively impacted by debris directly from the train or as a result of what is put into the air from the train, impacting our educational process with the panels and the amount of energy generated from the panels that defers our current energy costs (not to mention the monetary investment in the panels).
- Socioeconomics
  - The building was placed here partially to help the build up around this space. Living near a school is very attractive to homeowners. With the train close by, this could impact the growth of the community around LMS specifically, also impacting our long term growth plan and funding from the state.
- Cultural and Historical Resources
  - Our use of Buckley Homestead and the Calumet Observatory as educational resources in our community. Both of these properties and their educational offerings to our students will be impacted by the railroad.
- Visual Resources
- Environmental Justice