

Other Submissions

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- -

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Routinely we see big box companies like the Wal-mart or Home Depots request to build in our communities. At times even casinos request to locate in our towns, just like here in Joliet. When these businesses move into our communities the leaders discuss numerous issues like traffic congestion, road improvements, and community safety. Communities mitigate and come to resolutions. Village administrators force businesses to pay for improvements if they want to locate within the selected communities. The community's physiology for this type of financial demand is basically, if you want to move into my town, You will pay your fair share. Big businesses like The Wal-Marts and Home Depots routinely pay for intersection improvements, new roadways along with water and sewer lines.

Why is it that the Surface Transportation Board allowing a railway company to pass the price of doing business to the local taxpayer/community when that community will never see any benefit from that tax burden? STB members at the meeting in Matteson, IL advised me that the STB would make CN fund 5% of the improvements. This ideology may be set in past practice but is not logical and strongly supports taxpayer pay for private business upgrades that bolster their profits.

The intersection at 116th Ave in Frankfort is within Approx. 400 feet of a junior High school and has Approx. 26 school bus crossings it a day. This roadway crossing narrows and houses hamper its visibility. This crossing is currently a signal only and needs improvement. I feel that this crossing should be placed on the mandatory up grade list. The crossing was slated for IDOT to upgrade but was cut due to financial issues within our state. This crossing has to be upgraded because it is an accident waiting to happen. With the large number of school busses crossings this location it is only a matter of time before a train at this crossing hits a school bus full of students.

STB members at the meeting in Matteson, IL advised me that the STB usually approves acquisitions and the train traffic is unnoticeable to the communities and their residents. The STB needs to look at this accusation in a different manner. The train traffic will

cause major problems for the effected communities and this needs to be addressed now. The rail traffic that CN is advising is at today's levels and will only increase as time passes.

Please look at the totality of the purchase and don't allow CN to railroad our communities into unnecessary tax increases along with decreasing property values.