



City of St. Francis

Melinda K. Dejewski, PE, City Engineer/Director of Public Works

July 14, 2016

Mr. Dave Navecky
Surface Transportation Board
Docket No. FD 35952
395 E. Street SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

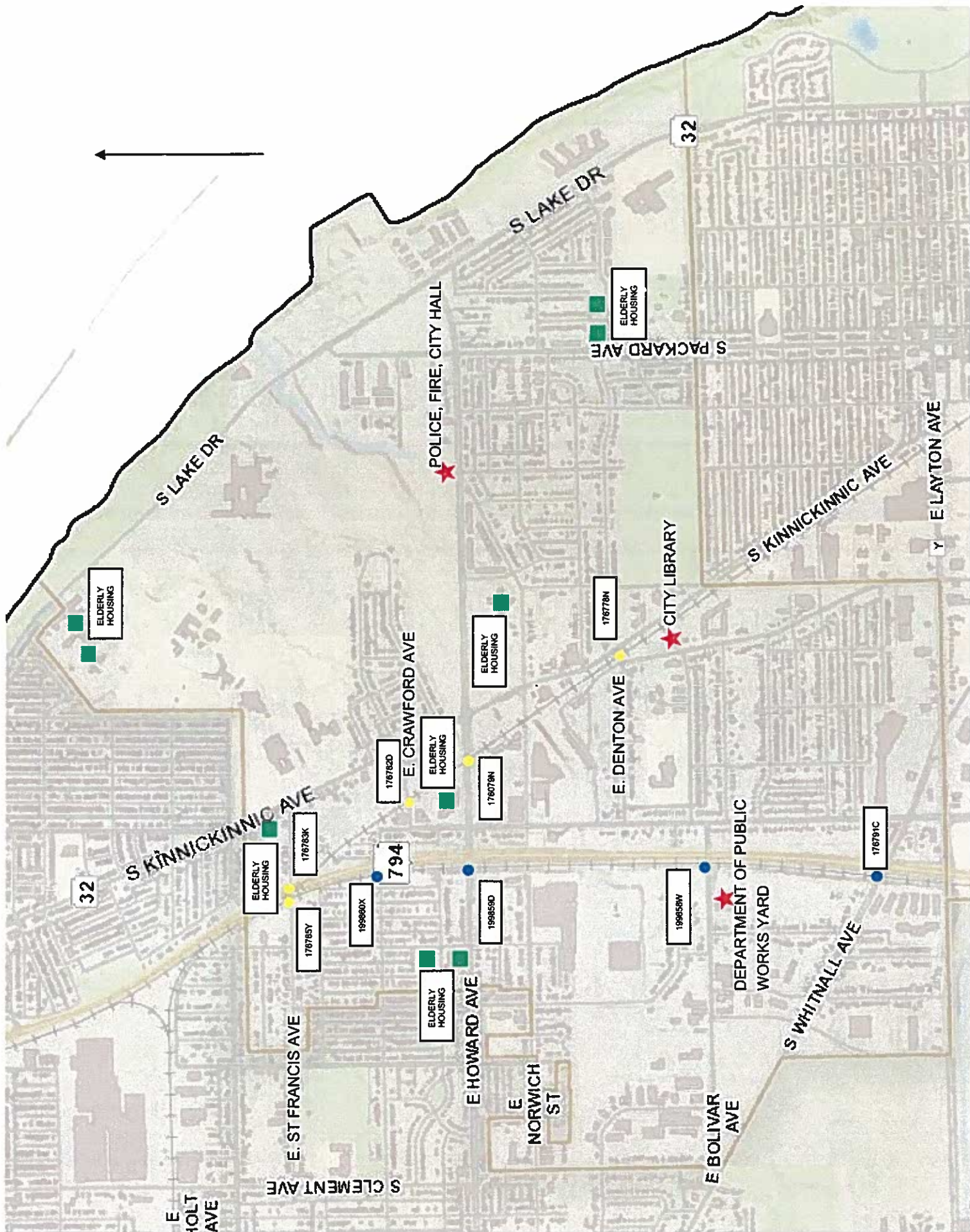
Subject: Objection to Docket No FD 35952, Great Lakes Basin Transportation, Inc. – Authority to Construct and Operate a Rail Line in Indiana, Illinois, and Wisconsin: Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement, Draft Scope of Study, Notice of Scoping Meetings, and Request for Comments on Draft Scope

Dear Mr. Navecky:

The City of St. Francis is formally objecting to the construction and expansion of the proposed rail line as outlined in the subject docket number FD 35952.

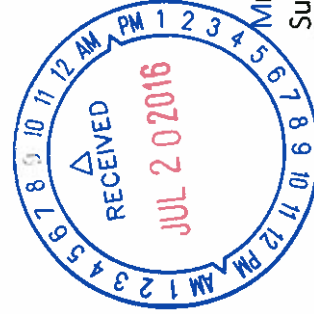
The City of St. Francis is a city with a population of about 10,000 people that is located in southeast Wisconsin; specifically in Milwaukee County situated to the south and east of the City of Milwaukee, north of the City of Cudahy, and west of Lake Michigan. It is about 2.9 square miles in size and has 2 rail lines that go through the City. The westerly track abuts and is parallel to I-794, the Lake Parkway. The easterly track runs north/south through the center of the City just west of S. Kinnickinnic Avenue.

The west track has approximately 10 trains per day and can block one intersection at Crossing 176791C. The east track has approximately 4 trains per day and can block 4 streets at Crossings 199860X, 176782D, 176778N, 176783K. Anytime the trains cross the streets, it becomes a life safety issue for our residents and businesses. As mentioned above, the east track divides the City in half. On each side of the track there are nursing homes and assisted living centers which require many trips by the Fire Department which provides emergency medical services to these nursing homes and assisted living centers on a daily basis. The delay in reaching those facilities or any property can literally mean life or death. The 4 trains per day, while is not a high train count, does impact the City functionality. Occasionally, the Police Department has to wait for a train but the occurrence is infrequent; while the Fire Department has not been stopped by a train in several years thankfully. The trains do delay traffic but again, at 4 trains per day, the impact is minimal. However, if the train traffic increases especially on the east track, it will have a huge impact on life safety and the functionality of the City. One example of impact on life safety and functionality was experienced in 2015 when a maintenance train carrying rail collided with an freight train carrying coal at Crossing 176783K. This crossing has houses within 125 feet and businesses within 220 feet. The damage was minimal but had the freight train been loaded with more hazardous materials,



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