

June 6, 2016

Dave Navecky
Surface Transportation Board
 ATTN: Docket No. FD 35952
 395 E. Street SW
 Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

RE: Great Lakes Basin Rail Line (GLBRL) Comments
Docket No. FD 35952

Dear Mr. Navecky:

To follow are my comments/concerns regarding proposed GLBRL:

- GLBRL will cross 4 rivers in IL: Kankakee, Fox, Illinois, Rock
- What is the impact to the updated FEMA Flood Plain Maps?
- Manteno, IL:
 - There are water towers on 9000 RD east of Rt. #50 and south of 10,000 Rd on Water Tower N. St.
 - The high school is on Maple, south of Legacy Park, the grammar school is south on Poplar, and Legacy Park appears to be almost bordered by the GLBRL tracks. (70 mph – up to 110 trains/day maximum but expect one quarter of that.)
 - There are a few mobile home parks, a nursing home, low-income housing, and another school in close proximity to the tracks or proposed rail yard.
- I have seen east/west road crossings from Manteno to Peotone with gates down and/or blocked for at least 10 minutes due to stopped CN trains while commuting to work. GLBRL would add an east/west track that will affect travel to the north/south.
- In Manteno, IL, the CN tracks run north/south through town. Multiple roads are currently affected by rail crossings now. The GLBRL would create east/west tracks affecting multiple roads. Manteno also has a track on Rte. #50, just south of town, near Amsterdam Rd. Therefore, Manteno would be bordered on 3 sides, to the North, to the South, East and downtown. What is the impact to Manteno's residents in the event of an incident such as a derailment, hazardous spill, fire, police, ambulance, sheriff, etc. or if emergency personnel or/and evacuation is required?
- Will locations of police, fire, ambulance, sheriff buildings, and where those emergency responders reside, be taken into consideration for response time?
- Local roads will be closed impacting commuters, school buses, emergency responders, police, fire, ambulance, access and egress.
- The GLBRL route skirts Kankakee County State Park.
- An announcement was made the week of June 1, regarding status of a trail from IN to Kankakee and the wetlands. What is the impact to those wetlands?
- Where the proposed rail yard will be in Manteno, IL, multiple beautiful and productive farms and farmland will be permanently impacted, not to mention the loss of the peace and tranquility of the countryside.
- Who will maintain the 200 ft. easement?
- Flooding concerns for residential areas and farms due to the change of the grading of the land required to lay the track.
- Multiple Farm Bureaus are concerned with the economical impact due to loss of farmland.
- Many communities across the country have been and are stressing locally sourced food. Does it make environmental sense to eliminate productive farmland and contaminate the land the entire length of the proposed GLBRL?
- The Cicero rail yard has received federal funds to expand.
- C.R.E.A.T.E. has seen millions from Illinois for the 6 existing major railways serving the Chicago area.

- Chicago is the largest freight rail hub in the world.
- Will the GLBRL draw taxpayer dollars in the form of federal funding?
 - Improvement to our existing roads and bridges should be the priority.
- The GLBRL is designed to bypass populated areas, avoid attracting more residences or businesses that would limit expansion or be exposed in the case of an incident.
 - Are the populations along the proposed GLBRL expendable?
 - Is the GLBRL impacting more working class and/or lower income areas?
 - Manteno, IL will apparently not be able to grow to the north, as the tracks and easement will impact agriculture, businesses and residences not allowed. Manteno to the east will be impacted by the massive proposed rail yard. Significant impact to agriculture, as well as limitations for residences and businesses.
 - It has been indicated that Bakken oil will be transported. It has the highest volatility and the current oil tankers, with some modifications aren't safe enough.
 - Up to 110 trains per day, 70 MPH.
 - States have limited authority. They cannot issue speed limits. Rail falls under federal authority.
 - Illinois had 100 hazardous material incidents in 2015, 122 in 2014, 110 in 2013.
 - The responsibility is on the state and local officials to contact the railroads regarding hazardous material shipments routing.
 - As a private venture, how will officials know who to contact?
 - Are the towns, they actually do have populations, expected to have their emergency personnel respond to incidents along the GLBRL?
 - Are they equipped, properly staffed, and trained?
 - At whose expense for a private venture?
 - If the rail companies cannot collectively build this railroad due to anti-trust laws, is that why unknown investors can?
- Diesel engine exhaust contains over 40 toxic air contaminants. Extensive studies in California the past 10 years have found significantly higher cancer risk near intermodal yards. California residents have been asking for more than a decade for stricter locomotive and rail yard pollution regulations.
- What will the truck volume be associated with the rail yard?
- What are the emissions forecast from the locomotive, truck and rail yard?
 - What will the total forecast of emissions be considering proximity to I57 and the new exchange being built near 6000 Rd.?
- What hazardous substances will be shipped on the GLBRL and any trucks associated with the rail yard?
 - How will that be disclosed if no rail companies are interested at this point?
- Isn't it more environmentally just to site a rail yard in an industrial location, rather than consuming residences and farmland?
- How will the tracks, 200 ft. easement, and the rail yard impact property values?

Respectfully submitted,



T. Blinstrub
Manteno, IL

T. Blinstub
292 Cardinal Drive
Manteno, IL 60950



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