

May 31, 2016

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

Dear Mr. Navecky,

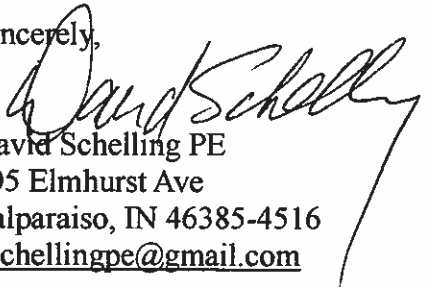
I was the Porter County Engineer from 1987 to 2007 and dealt with railroad companies as well as local, State and Federal agencies dealing with improvements to EXISTING highway and railroad at grade intersections and bridges. Although I do not represent Porter County Government at this time, I would like to make several personal comments about the proposed railroad bypass that is facing Porter County.

First I am opposed to the proposed railroad bypass and question the need for the disruption to the highways, land values, safety, and quality of private citizens (taxpayers) lives. I believe that improvements could likely be made to all the existing railroad infrastructures in and around Chicago and scheduling to lessen any railroad "bottle neck". I also question if the other major railroads would even consider using tracks that they do not own primarily due to the huge liability involved with railroad track and warning device maintenance and operation. I would also believe the other railroads would like to keep their business operations and volumes confidential.

If Great Lakes Basin Transportation's proposed NEW railroad is approved then they should be responsible to pay for all improvements necessary to keep all public roads open and protected by grade separated structures. They should not be allowed to close any public road or to jeopardize the safety or lives of the public with at grade railroad crossings.

Porter County had the expense to design, build and maintain bridges over EXISTING railroads as well as the cost to design and build active warning devices at EXISTING at grade railroad crossings. Federal funds helped with those expenses. Porter County citizens should not have to accept any costs to design, build or maintain any of these new bridges or warning devices for this proposed NEW railroad. Taxpayers should not be made to contribute to GLBT.

If this NEW railroad is allowed to be built, they should be mandated to keep all existing roads open for the public's future and make the safest possible railroad intersection at each road – a new bridge. Great Lakes Basin Transportation should build and maintain, at their expense, bridges at ALL railroad and highway intersections to accommodate safe crossings. This railroad bypass is supposed to be built for the future of railroads but the future of Porter County must not be compromised and ignored.

Sincerely,

David Schelling PE
405 Elmhurst Ave
Valparaiso, IN 46385-4516
dschellingpe@gmail.com

cc: Porter County Commissioners
Porter County Council
Porter County Highway

DAVID SCHELLING
405 ELMHURST AVE
MILWAUKEE, WI 46385-4516

5 SUBURBAN IL 604

03 JUN 2016 PM 10 L



MR. DAVID NAVECKY
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
DOCKET NO. FD 35952
395 E STREET SW
WASHINGTON, DC 20423-0001



DOCKET NO. FD 35952

20423-0001

