

Ronald M. Serpico
MAYOR



Village of Melrose Park



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September 30, 2008

Ms. Phillis Johnson-Ball
Section of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20423

Subject: Draft Environmental Impact Statement on *Canadian National Railway Co., et al.-Control-EJ&E West Company*, STB Finance Docket NO. 35087

Ms. Ball,

I do not have to tell you that our transportation system is the lifeline of our businesses and their connection to global markets competitiveness. Congestion and delays have direct costs to people and businesses and on our region's economic performance. While I know the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) does not capture these costs, these matters should be considered when rendering a decision as to whether CN's acquisition of the EJ&E should go through or not. Constraints on our transportation system have significant impacts on our region's ability to prosper and experience economic growth.

The DEIS needs to make a comprehensive assessment on both the positive and negative economic, social and environmental impacts for the entire region, not just an assessment of these factors along the EJ&E line. That would be short sighted in understanding the true ramifications of the transaction on the entire region. The STB needs to acknowledge that transportation is a system and one spoke affects all other parts. To look at just the corridor in isolation results in missing the entire picture and impacts it will have on the entire system, from the reduction of idling trains to less waits at crossings in heavily congested parts of the region. The DEIS seems to lack a review and understanding of the benefits this transaction will have on the inner arc communities.

We ask that the STB consider the entire transportation network and the impacts, both positive and negative, when reaching a decision. We also ask that the STB make a decision by year end.

Sincerely,

Ronald M. Serpico,
Mayor

RMS/pd