CN - EJ&E Acquisition
Time For A Reality Check

Personal Observations of an Interested and Informed Citizen

Chicago, IL
February 27, 2008
Grade Crossing Perspective

- **Motorist Delay at Public Highway – Rail Grade Crossings in Northeastern Illinois**

- Prepared by the Research & Analysis Section Transportation Division, Illinois Commerce Commission; released in July 2002 (available on their website).

- Was not included in Relevant Sources for CMAP’s Regional Impact Assessment (Schaad/12-13-07).
Top 5 Railroads For Delays

By Vehicles Delayed
- Union Pacific
- Metra Direct
- BNSF
- CN (current lines)
- CSX

By Total Hrs Delay
- Union Pacific
- CSX
- Metra Direct
- CN (current lines)
- BNSF
Top 30 Worst Crossings

- None of the 30 Worst individual grade crossings identified by the ICC in 2002 are on any lines owned and operated by CN or any predecessor carrier, or the EJ&E.
- The 30 Worst account for one-third of total delay hours, and one-quarter of all vehicles delayed.
- Since 2002 only 5 of the 30 Worst crossings have been separated or scheduled for work.
Top 5 Delay Routes

By Vehicles Delayed
- BNSF Aurora-Cicero
- UP/Metra Harvard Sub
- UP/Metra West Line
- CSX Main Blue Island to 59th St.
- Metra Milwaukee North
- (5 = 42% of total)

By Total Hours of Delay
- CSX Main Blue Island to 59th St.
- BNSF Aurora-Cicero
- BRC Clearing-Craigin
- UP/Metra West Line
- UP/CWI-CEI Main Line
- (5 = 42% of total)
Impact of CN-EJ&E - Vehicles

- BNSF Aurora-Cicero
- UP/Metra Harvard Sub
- UP/Metra West Line
- CSX Main Blue Island to 59th St.
- Metra Milwaukee North
- Metra Milwaukee West
- UP/CWI-CEI Main Line
- CN-GTW Main Line – Remove.
- UP Valley Line
- CN-WC Main Line – Remove.
- EJ&E East Main Line
- EJ&E West Main Line
Impact of CN-EJ&E - Delay Hrs.

- CSX Main Blue Island to 59th St.
- BNSF Aurora-Cicero
- BRC Clearing to Craigin
- UP/Metra West Line
- UP/CWI-CEI Main Line
- **EJ&E East Main Line**
- IHB Calumet Park-Blue Island
- **CN-GTW Main Line – Remove.**
- UP/Metra Harvard Sub
- **EJ&E West Main Line**
- UP Valley Line
- Metra Milwaukee West
Delays Vehicles/Delays Hours

- Chicago, IL
- Des Plaines, IL
- **Downers Grove, IL**
- Blue Island, IL
- La Grange, IL
- Evergreen Park, IL
- Morton Grove, IL
- Riverside, IL
- West Chicago, IL
- Franklin Park, IL

- Chicago, IL
- Blue Island, IL
- Des Plaines, IL
- Dixmoor, IL
- Evergreen Park, IL
- La Grange, IL
- Riverdale, IL
- Dolton, IL
- Franklin Park, IL
- **Downers Grove, IL**
Impact on Barrington, IL

- Impact of 22% increase in total train count in Barrington plus a 100% increase in vehicle delay hours (84 vs. 69 trains).

- **Total Vehicles Delayed**: Barrington moves up list from #16 to #11 (right behind Riverside/BNSF).

- **Total Hours of Motorist Delay**: Barrington moves up list from #22 to #11 (right behind Downers Grove/BNSF).
Regional Public Safety Impact

- Barrington Village President Karen Darch is publicly concerned about blocked access to Advocate Good Shepherd Hospital in Barrington, IL which is a Level 2 Trauma Center (good for her).

- Advocate Good Samaritan Hospital in Downers Grove, IL is the ONLY Level 1 Trauma Center in DuPage County; has been dealing with growing grade crossing delays caused by Amtrak, Metra, IDOT and BNSF for many, many years (is CMAP listening?).
What’s the Real Story Here?

- Some local impacts will be substantially positive, while some local impacts will be substantially negative.

- However, the negative impacts on a relative basis will be less than negative impacts currently existing or being felt everyday in many other areas of the region.
The Real Story Here

- The affected communities deserve to be treated no better and no worse than any of the other regional communities with the same or similar problems.

- The real problem here is not the action of Canadian National, but rather the continuing inaction of our public agencies and elected officials in solving these serious regional problems.
Federal Funds for Solutions

- SAFETEA-LU contained approximately $1 billion worth of earmarks for grade crossing improvement projects nationwide; plenty of money available for the asking.

- $7 million earmark for Elburn, IL grade crossing (costing $9.5m) courtesy of former House Speaker Dennis Hastert.

- N.E. Illinois did get $165 million in earmarks for bike paths and Brookfield Zoo.
Section 9002: Capital Grants for Rail Line Relocation Projects.

Authorizes $350 million for each of the fiscal years 2006 through 2009.

Senator Durbin began working on appropriations for this item 2 years ago, for additional CREATE funds.

Section 9001: High Speed Rail Corridor Development

Authorizes $70 million for each of the fiscal years 2006 through 2013.

Both could be used for new passenger connection from CN to Union Station to replace St. Charles Airline.
SAFETEA-LU TIFIA

- **Section 1601**: Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA).
- Expands program of loans and credit assistance to include private railroad projects; previously covered Amtrak.
Solutions Exist Today!

- FRA has process for implementing whistle bans ([www.fra.dot.gov](http://www.fra.dot.gov)).
- Whistle bans are currently being implemented along the EJ&E West Line.
- There is also a formal process for constructing grade crossing separations, requiring a “public-private partnership”.
- *Both require political will and public funds.*
QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS