

Subject: [DPNeBlast] Catching up, CN rail dangers--and road crew
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Conversation: Catching up, CN rail dangers--and road crew

host_name

Greetings, Neighbors. It's been a very busy week, and there's a lot of news to catch up. We've posted links to the following stories on our home page, <http://deerparkneighbors.com>. We don't paste a lot of links into our emails, due to technical difficulties on the recipient side. Please check in at our web site often, where updates are posted almost daily. If you have any questions or problems with links, call 847-867-1867 or email info@deerparkneighbors.com

- Link to Lake Zurich Courier Editorial on CUSD 95 meeting
- Link to Quentin School closing decision document
- Link to Surface Transportation Board's Decision following their scoping

You can read the entire report STB report (SEE LATER IN EMAIL FOR MORE INFORMATION), but we feel that this section is of great importance locally ("EIS" below is "Environmental Impact Study"), and we quote:

Transportation Systems

There are approximately 140 highway/rail at-grade crossings on the EJ&E line that may experience longer traffic delays due to increased freight rail traffic resulting from the proposed acquisition. Although existing CN crossings on lines into downtown Chicago would experience less 7 of 25 train traffic and fewer delays as a result of the proposed acquisition, a number of commenters expressed concern about the potential impact of increased freight rail traffic on local transportation systems, including congestion and delays at highway/rail at-grade crossings, and potential impacts to community emergency response capability.

Consistent with the Draft Scope of Study, the EIS will evaluate the impact of the proposed transaction on local transportation systems and intercity Amtrak services, vehicular delays due to increases in rail-related operation, and increased train traffic on movable railroad bridges as result of the proposed transaction. Since no changes in intermodal activity or truck traffic have been

identified, analysis of truck traffic as identified in the Draft Scope of Study does not appear warranted. Other issues of concern to be included in the transportation systems impact evaluation are described below. (See rest of report)

>>Electronic Recycling Program, Sat., May 3, LZ Public Works, 505 Telser Road. \$15 per TV, \$5 per CRT monitors, everything else free. 847-540-1696

>>NEW EQUIPMENT FOR OLD FARM PARK. This neighborhood is really cut off from any recreational areas that can be reached on foot. They have been asking for 20 years, and recently presented a petition with 53 signatures at the Parks Forum. The only dissenting trustee was Pat Plautz, who lives in that neighborhood.

We are proud of the residents who have so politely and persistently succeeded in having their needs met, despite a deficit budget. Compare the six months spent on this request to the 20 months Deerpath Road residents spent to get their two speed humps (only one of which was ever installed). Times are changing, thanks to you.

>> VIDEOS OF CUSD 95 school board meetings are now hosted on Google. Go to <http://video.google.com> <<http://video.google.com>> to view. There is a link from that page where you can sign up to be alerted by email any time a new video is posted to that page. The 4/24/08 meeting, at which the decision to close Charles Quentin School was made, is not yet posted as of this email, but you can read the decision at our web site, on the home page under "Everyone's Talking."

There was an excellent editorial in the Lake Zurich Courier that we would like you to consider (under "Above the Fold."). While it references the above school board meeting, there is a message there for all residents. In our opinion, it is only when residents show up at public meetings—village board, school districts, any public meeting—that the human element becomes part of the process, and more important, part of the execution of decisions. There is much work to do now that Quentin is to be closed. Your voice will impact the solutions that are developed. And the same is true—so true—right here in Deer Park. In fact, there were so many people in attendance for the last few public meetings, we're willing to accept responsibility for some of that turnout!

Whether the issue is road repair, open space, park development, sales tax increases, village services or the Canadian National acquisition, the people sitting on the other side of the railing at public meetings work for you. When they deliberate and decide in an empty room, it's easy to consider only the opinions of one's colleagues and friends. That's only natural; we all do that. Then, something happens—a story on the evening news, a piece on the radio, a conversation at a business meeting, and the lights go on. "I never thought of that!"

Our responsibility, as citizens, is to light those lights, early and often. Public comments begin at 7pm, and you need to be there a few minutes early to sign in your intention to speak. Your comments are limited to 5 minutes. You may speak at the beginning of the meeting, or postpone your comments to a particular agenda item. But if you spend no time speaking out, really, on what basis can you complain about how the board acts?

We know these meetings are scheduled at a difficult time for parents. Bring your children, this is your community center; and it will be a good lesson in civics and responsibility for your kids, who will be so proud of you when you speak. Remember, the public is welcome to come or go, quietly, at any time during a public meeting. Only the die-hards stay to the bitter end, so that you have the opportunity to review the meetings at any time on DVD.

By the way, Deer Park Neighbors would like to see a Fight Rail Congestion sign in the front yard of every trustee and every Deer Park Neighbor. It's a small contribution to a huge public safety issue. Visit <http://fightrailcongestion.com> for more information.

>>LONG GROVE ROAD CREW You are invited to join us on Saturday, May 17, 10:30-noon, to pick up trash on Long Grove Road, our adopted highway. Don't worry, it's a pretty clean road, despite the cut-through traffic. Meet up at the Barrys, 412 Bramble. If you bring your own broom handle, Al will fashion you a quicker-picker-upper, and we'll provide safety vests and bags. And those of you who have already volunteered—we remember who you are, and thanks! Sandwiches at the Barrys immediately following. Any trustees care to join us?

>>CN RAIL ACQUISITION Sadly this past weekend, a young man was killed on the freight tracks in Hoffman Estates. You should see the news stories. The Surface Transportation Board is one aspect of the current process of CN acquisition, while a number of organizations, including the Fight Rail Congestion coalition and Advocate Good Shepherd, recommend that each of us takes the time to respond. Respond to news stories, no matter where published, online or in writing. The understanding is that CN has a PR machine—but really, can any corporation outspoke the citizenry? We believe not! STRATEGY: Turn out more comments than any PR machine. Here's how:

>>COMMENTING ON NEWS STORIES AND BLOGS: First, you go to the individual story at a news site or blog; next to or below the story, there is usually a link to "comment" or "post," or something like that. You click on that link to proceed, at which point you will be asked to provide some personal information, and create a password for yourself. We are of the opinion that your personal information will be safe at recognized entities—the Sun Times News Group, Chicago Tribune, etc. (The procedure is similar for most legitimate "blogs.")

Why do they ask for personal information? This is to distinguish yourself from a "robot" that might be set up to spam the news sites. (Yeah, we know...remember the old front porch!)

On future visits to any site, you can “log in” immediately or at the point that you make your comments. You know you are “you,” and so does the site. For your neighbors who don’t have an internet connection, if you have time, help them post a comment from your computer.

Fewer than 4,000 comments were gathered during the STB’s “scoping period,” although that is more than expected for a “small transaction” (which is what this acquisition is considered!) One reason is, we believe, that villages, organizations and even groups sent one comment with many signatures. NOT ANY MORE. Each person must speak as an individual, so that the numbers of comments will reflect the actual level of anxiety we have. There are some 190 communities. If 100 individuals from each community responds, that’s 19,000 comments. We can make that happen.

The only assurance of defeat is silence.

We will let you know when we know what the next period of public comments is; we hope to help triple that number of comments, and to help you know what the procedure is.

In the meantime, visit the major news sites, see the “Hot Button” page at our web site for links to recent stories, and email or snail mail everyone you can, AND post comments to any news story you find. (One more hint: Write you comments in a text program, then copy and paste them into the comments portion of the web site. This will save a lot of time, as web site fields can be slow to fill.) Together, we are stronger.

>>ATTENDING VILLAGE MEETINGS: If you’ve never been to a village meeting, why not? Think it’s boring? Hardly. (OK, sometimes, but that’s what needlework is for!) Wonder if you’ll know what’s going on? Well, maybe not right away, but that’s where Deer Park Neighbors and village board minutes can help. Wishing you could speak out, but don’t know how? We can help there, too. It is YOUR village, your hometown—yes, your money, and those are your trustees. Certainly, there is a public trust we place in elected officials. There is also the presumptive trust born in the citizenry.

This isn’t rocket science. You can do this. Call or email if you have questions.

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