

**MAYOR**  
Irvana K. Wilks

**TRUSTEES**  
Timothy J. Corcoran  
Paul Wm. Hoefert  
Arlène A. Juracek  
A. John Korn  
Steven S. Polit  
Michael A. Zadel



**VILLAGE MANAGER**  
Michael E. Janonis

**VILLAGE CLERK**  
M. Lisa Angell

Phone: 847/392-6000  
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[www.mountprospect.org](http://www.mountprospect.org)

## Village of Mount Prospect

50 South Emerson Street, Mount Prospect, Illinois 60056

September 30, 2008

Ms. Phillis Johnson-Ball  
Surface Transportation Board  
395 E Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

Re: Canadian National Acquisition of the EJ&E Company – STB Finance Docket No. 35087

Dear Ms. Johnson-Ball:

On behalf of the Mayor, the Board of Trustees, and the residents of the Village of Mount Prospect, I would like to reaffirm our continued support for the proposed acquisition of the Elgin, Joliet & Eastern Railway Company ("EJ&E") by the Canadian National Railway Company ("CN"). Please reference the attached resolution. The acquisition is expected to positively impact our community due to the substantial decrease in freight traffic (19 trains/day to 2 trains/day based on a three year projection) and the genuine possibility that commuter service on Metra's North Central line, which travels over CN's Wisconsin Central tracks, will expand and improve.

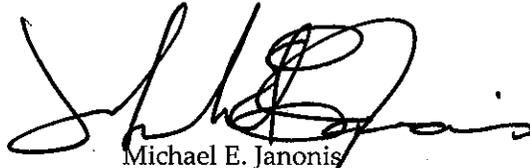
Additionally, as the Draft Environmental Impact Statement indicates, the Village and other communities along the existing Canadian National lines should benefit from decreased train noise from freight trains, and less traffic congestion and delays at grade crossings. Moreover, train accidents on Canadian National train lines are expected to decrease overall due to the proposed acquisition. Furthermore, the risk of accidents to pedestrians and bicyclists should also decrease.

While these potential benefits appear to be a natural consequence of the proposed acquisition and operation of the EJ&E line and admittedly positive for our community, it is unclear how Canadian National's actions will impact the future viability of the Chicago metropolitan's Metra STAR Line project, the proposed suburb-to-suburb commuter rail line that is expected to serve Mount Prospect residents. Currently, the STAR line's proposed route travels along the EJ&E train tracks. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement indicates that after the proposed acquisition these tracks would be operated at or very near capacity. Without excess line capacity, the STAR line project may never successfully leave the station. As such, the Environmental Impact Statement should specifically address this potential consequence and identify voluntary

or mandatory mitigation measures, including the reduction of freight traffic on the EJ&E to increase future line capacity (when or if necessary) or cost-sharing proposals to reduce the capital infrastructure burden.

Since it is in the best interests of our community and the region in general, the Village of Mount Prospect respectfully requests that the Surface Transportation Board complete the Final Environmental Impact Statement and promptly approve the proposed acquisition of the Elgin, Joliet & Eastern Railway Company by Canadian National, currently filed as STB Finance Docket No. 35087. Please enter these comments into the official record of these proceedings.

Sincerely,



Michael E. Janonis  
Village Manager

MCD

c: Irvana Wilks, Mayor  
Village of Mount Prospect Board of Trustees  
Mark Fowler, Northwest Municipal Conference Executive Director

Enclosure: Village of Mount Prospect Resolution No. 12-08

**MAYOR**  
Irvana K. Wilks



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Michael A. Zadel

## Village of Mount Prospect

50 South Emerson Street, Mount Prospect, Illinois 60056

STATE OF ILLINOIS     )  
  ) SS  
COUNTY OF COOK     )

I, M. Lisa Angell, do hereby certify that I am the duly appointed Village Clerk of the Village of Mount Prospect and as such, am keeper of the records and files of said Village.

I do further certify that attached hereto is a true and correct copy of Resolution No. 12-08, "A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE PROPOSED ACQUISITION OF THE ELGIN, JOLIET & EASTERN RAILWAY COMPANY BY THE CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAY COMPANY" passed at the regular meeting of the Village Board of Trustees held April 15, 2008 at which time the Village Board voted as follows:

AYES:           Hoefert, Juracek, Korn, Lohrstorfer, Zadel

NAYS:           None

ABSENT:        Corcoran, Wilks

all as appears in the official records and files of the Village of Mount Prospect.

Dated this 21<sup>st</sup> day of April 2008.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Lisa Angell", is written over a horizontal line.

M. Lisa Angell  
Village Clerk  
Village of Mount Prospect  
Cook County, Illinois

(Seal)

**RESOLUTION NO. 12-08**  
**SUPPORTING THE PROPOSED ACQUISITION OF THE ELGIN, JOLIET & EASTERN RAILWAY COMPANY BY THE CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAY COMPANY**

**WHEREAS**, the President and the Board of Trustees of the Village of Mount Prospect desire to express the Village's support for the proposed acquisition of the Elgin, Joliet & Eastern Railway Company ("EJ&E") by the Canadian National Railway Company ("CN"); and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed acquisition would permit freight train traffic to be diverted away from the Chicago metropolitan's core infrastructure and onto underutilized rail capacity around the perimeter of the Chicago area, thereby improving the surface transportation system for the entire region, including reducing freight travel times, pollution from idling trains and costs resulting from shipping delays,

**WHEREAS**, the proposed acquisition would permit for better utilization of the CN Wisconsin Central rail line, upon which Metra operates its North Central Service commuter line, thus creating an opportunity for improved and expanded Metra service to address unmet weekday service demand and commencement of weekend service, thereby improving the quality of life in the region, enhancing the viability of the North Central Service and adding value to the past investments made in capital improvements to the line.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF MOUNT PROSPECT, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS:**

**SECTION ONE:** That the President and Board of Trustees of the Village of Mount Prospect request the Surface Transportation Board approve the proposed acquisition of the Elgin, Joliet & Eastern Railway Company by the Canadian National Railway Company, currently filed as STB Finance Docket No. 35087.

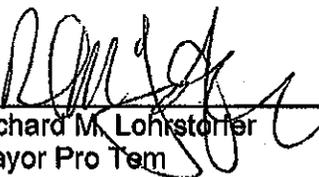
**SECTION TWO:** That this Resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage, approval in the manner provided by law.

**AYES:** Hoefert, Juracek, Korn, Zadel

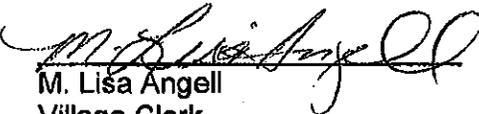
**NAYS:** None

**ABSENT:** Corcoran, Wilks

**PASSED and APPROVED** this 15<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2008

  
Richard M. Lohrstorfer  
Mayor Pro Tem

**ATTEST:**

  
M. Lisa Angell  
Village Clerk

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