

Good evening and Welcome to Itasca.

My name is Carie Anne Ergo, I serve as Village Administrator in Itasca and as chairperson of the Coalition to Stop CPKC representing the communities of Bartlett, Bensenville, Elgin, Itasca, Hanover Park, Roselle, Schaumburg, Wood Dale, and DuPage County – all of whom are here this evening.

Our communities total 300,000-plus residents, but because of our proximity to Chicago and O'Hare International Airport, we have millions of commuters who traverse our roadways.

Our communities are full of schools, small and large businesses, community centers, hospitals, and senior centers.

When we first heard that Canadian Pacific was looking at increasing freight on Metra's commuter track through our communities, we were worried.

When we learned that it was part of a \$31 billion merger that would create the only continuous rail system linking Mexico to Canada, we united.

This line cuts right through downtowns. Most days, our communities see only two freight trains. If approved, we could see 14 freight trains daily running through our communities in just three years.

What will that do to ambulance runs? Police rushing to calls for service? Parents taking their children to school? Businesses making deliveries?

You don't know because nobody at the STB bothered to visit our towns or consult a single local authority.

We are communities, which exist on small taxpayer funded budgets, facing two Class One railroads. And I can't help, but feel we are being railroaded.

We do not have big corporate dollars to hire dozens of lobbyists or pay for "expert" testimony, like the big for-profit railroads.

For our residents, we are doing everything we can to point out that actual impact of this merger would cause immeasurable harm to our communities and our region.

Today, we will present facts from our own Railroad Crossing Delay Analysis that shows what CP is proposing will have life altering and life-threatening impacts in our communities. Up to 23,000 additional vehicles could be blocked everyday – including cars, buses, trucks, and emergency vehicles.

This is not "negligible, minor or temporary" as indicated in the draft EIS.

We stand here with the backing of our Illinois Federal Delegation... Senators Durbin, Duckworth, and Congressman Krishnamoorthi who share our concern over this merger.

We stand here united when we say the draft EIS did not do its due diligence in considering our communities' concerns. I respectfully submit this Railroad Crossing Delay Analysis for your review, ask that you hear our concerns and conduct additional analysis of the environmental impacts to our area before any further action. Thank you.