



# HOFFMAN ESTATES

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

William D. McLeod  
MAYOR

March 6, 2019

Mr. Soren G. Hall  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Chicago District, Regulatory Branch  
Attn: LRC-2018-00651, Mr. Soren Hall  
231 South LaSalle Street  
Suite 1500  
Chicago, IL 60604-1457

**Subject: Public Notice / Application Number: LRC-2018-00651  
Wisconsin Central Ltd. Railroad**

Dear Mr. Hall:

The Village of Hoffman Estates learned of the current permit application by Wisconsin Central Ltd. Railroad referenced above through contacts from our residents earlier this week. The Village did not receive notification of the railroad's proposal from the Army Corps of Engineers or Wisconsin Central. According to the public notice from the Army Corps of Engineers, the railroad's proposal is to install 4.27 miles of main line track south of Shoe Factory Road, a portion of which is adjacent to residential neighborhoods and park space in Hoffman Estates.

We have already heard numerous concerns from residents about the impacts from the potential increase in train traffic, associated noise, vibration, and safety issues. There are also technical concerns in this area which the railroad and its design engineers need to fully investigate and consider. Flooding and drainage problems have been documented in the neighborhoods to the west of the railroad property along with floodplain and creek issues. Given the very cursory level of information provided to residents with the notice letter, it is unclear what physical changes are proposed and what impacts to the areas listed under evaluation factors might be. While the railroad is coordinating with Village staff to arrange a meeting with its design engineers to review technical issues, I am concerned that not enough time is available to evaluate plans once received, for the railroad to share more information with residents, and to provide comprehensive comments before the March 29, 2019 deadline listed in the public notice.

For these reasons, I request the following actions by the Army Corps of Engineers regarding this permit application.

1. The review of this permit application and deadline for comments should be deferred until a future date, to be determined, to allow adequate time for plan reviews by Village staff and the public.
2. As noted on page 5 of the Public Notice, I request that a Public Hearing regarding this proposal be held. Residents have raised a variety of issues relevant to the railroad's proposal which need to be heard yet many of the details of the plans are unknown.

Thank you for your consideration of these requests. The magnitude of what is being proposed by the railroad demands adequate time for public review and input. If you have questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

*William D. McLeod*

William D. McLeod  
Village President

Cc: Board of Trustees  
James H. Norris, Village Manager  
Michael Hankey, Director of Transportation  
David Woodruff, Canadian National  
Larry Lloyd, Canadian National