



**MIDWEST
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Statement on Potential EJ&E Purchase by CN Railway

Earlier this week, the Canadian National Railway (CN) submitted an application with the Surface Transportation Board (STB) to purchase the principal lines of the Elgin, Joliet and Eastern Railroad (EJ&E). The CN has requested that this be classified as a minor transaction and that the approval process be expedited.

This transaction has far ranging implications for the national passenger railroad network. The Midwest High Speed Rail Association urges the STB to fully consider those impacts as it weighs its decision.

Two routes will be directly impacted. The Chicago – Carbondale – Memphis – New Orleans Illinois Central Corridor currently uses trackage to access Union Station that the CN intends to abandon. A new route of equal or better utility will need to be provided. The proposed Metra Star Line will also be impacted, since it will also be using the EJ&E railroad.

Five Metra routes will be indirectly impacted as additional freight traffic will be crossing those lines at grade. Amtrak’s routes from the east may be impacted if the Illinois Central Corridor trains are rerouted.

While, the proposed transaction will reduce congestion on the national network, it is important to protect the interests of railroad passengers.

Routes directly impacted

Amtrak to Chicago, Champaign, Carbondale, Memphis and New Orleans
Metra’s Proposed Star Line

Metra crossed by the EJ&E at grade

Milwaukee Road West
North Central
Rock Island
UP Northwest
UP West

Amtrak routes with potential impacts

Michigan Corridors
Chicago – Cleveland – New York
Chicago – Pittsburgh – Washington
Chicago – Indianapolis – Cincinnati
Chicago – Rockford – Galena

The Midwest High Speed Rail Association is a member-supported non-profit educational organization promoting the development of fast, frequent and dependable train service connecting the entire Midwest. Our members include business leaders, mayors and individuals that want the option of traveling by train.