

Impacts from EA Recommended Proposal to Increase Train Traffic Lake Forest



- No demonstrated need by Amtrak for increasing Hiawatha service, which is currently operating at only 39% capacity
- The construction of a third rail would increase capacity for hazmat freight traffic and create a “train yard” in our community where trains could idle for an indefinite amount of time very near homes and schools impacting countless adults and children
- Polluted air quality from carcinogenic idling diesel fumes
- Contaminated eco-systems and wetlands from leaking chemical cargo
- Health impacts from noise and vibrations
- Damage to property from vibrations
- Reduced property values
- Longer at-grade crossing closures causing traffic jams and delay
- Inability of first responders to efficiently reach some destinations
- Effects on students in nearby schools
- Safety concerns about HAZMAT cargo in unsafe tank cars (90% do not meet new DOT-117 safety standards)
- Limited accessibility in evacuation zones in the event of a train derailment, hazardous chemical spill or explosion