



November 23, 2016

VIA EMAIL

Mr. Bob Rinella

Specialized Ecological Services

Email: bob@specialized-ecological.com

RE: 16-FOIA-282 HUD Assessment

Dear Mr. Rinella:

We are in receipt of your request under the Illinois Freedom of Information Act, 5 ILCS 140/1 *et seq.* (“FOIA”).

On November 4, 2016, we received your request for information to complete a HUD Noise Calculation for three railways whose nearest crossing by DOT Crossing Inventory Numbers are: 608826X, 867193X and 174498E. Specifically, you requested the following information for each railroad crossing location:

- Average train speed;
- Average engines per train;
- Average railway cars per train;
- Average Train Operations;
- Night fraction of Average Train Operations;
- Are Railway Whistles or Horns used at this location; and
- Are the Tracks Bolted at this location

Additionally, you requested that each of the above be separated by electric and diesel (“Request”).

On November 17, Metra Attorney Thomas Stuebner spoke with you about the railroad crossing numbers you provided in your Request. You indicated that railroad crossing no. 608826X was shown to be at Kimball and State streets in Elgin, and railroad crossing no. 867193X was shown to be at Perry and Parnell in Chicago.

I contacted you shortly after your conversation with Mr. Stuebner on November 17, and requested a short extension to November 23, in order to locate your requested information. You returned my call that same day and granted this extension.

In response to your Request, Metra’s Transportation Department is providing you with the following answers regarding railroad crossing no. 867193X. For information, this crossing is *elevated* over 70th street, and not at street level, with S. Perry Ave. located four blocks to the east and S. Parnell Ave. located four blocks to the west of this location:

- The average train speed – *75 mph, with a maximum authorized speed of 79 mph;*
- The average number of engines per train – *1;*
- The average number of railway cars per train – *7;*
- The Average Train Operations – *Weekdays normal train count is 74 and of that number, 11 depart after 6:00 p.m.; Saturdays normal train count is 32 and of that number, 10 depart after 6:00 p.m.; and Sundays normal train count is 28 and of that number, 8 depart after 6:00 p.m.;*
- The Night fraction of the Average Train Operations – *see bullet point above;*
- Are Railway Whistles or Horns used at this location – *no crossing at this location, so no whistles or horns;* and
- Are the Tracks Bolted at this location - *not applicable*

(“**Response**”).

After performing a diligent search of Metra’s records, we have been unable to locate any records responsive to your Request. Metra’s Transportation and Signal Departments advised that the numbers provided do not match any crossing numbers contained in their records. Further, the Transportation Department stated that the Kimball and State Street location in Elgin belongs to the Union Pacific Railroad.

As for railroad crossing no. 174498E, we are unable to confirm the ownership of this railroad crossing.

If we can be of further assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



Kathleen E. Haton
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