



On the Bi-Level

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We can't guarantee all letters will be printed or answered. Please keep letters to less than 200 words and include your first name, hometown and what line you ride. (Names are not required but strongly encouraged.) We reserve the right to edit letter for length and grammar.

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SOUNDING BOARD

Got a question? We've got an answer

Better keep looking

In your May edition a letter from Charles asked for more trains to help with the increased traffic on the UP West Line since construction began on the Eisenhower/I-290. You pleaded a lack of cars.

GREAT NEWS. I have found seven cars for you – enough for an extra morning rush hour train, or to add an extra car to seven morning rush hour trains.

Those cars are on Train No. 13, departing Ogilvie at 5:53 a.m. arriving in Elburn at 7:21 a.m. Every morning Train No. 13 operates with nine cars. Seven of the nine cars are dark, and the last two are open for passenger use. Those seven unused cars can be repositioned overnight in Elburn for additional morning inbound capacity. What about that?

Donald

If only it were that simple.

Train No. 13 takes those cars to Elburn and immediately turns around as Train No. 36. That train carries nearly 1,500 passengers a day – which means it is nearly at its capacity. We can't use any of them for an extra train (which would still need an extra locomotive) or to add cars to an existing train.

We really are short of cars.

SWS delays

I take the SouthWest Service train to work and the week of June 1 the train was about 20 minutes late every day arriving to Union Station. The message said it was due to freight train interference, but the freight train was going in the opposite direction on another track. Why do we have to stop for a train going in the opposite direction on another track? It would seem as if this has nothing to do with our train.

Wanda

To the east of Ashburn is a single track. So when a freight train is coming from the opposite direction, we must wait for it to clear the single track before we can go the other way on that same track.

80th Ave. update

I read your June issue and all the construction projects you named. What is happening to the Rock Island Metra station at Tinley Park/80th Ave.? I thought that project was on schedule for this summer.

We didn't include that one because that project is being done by Tinley Park. But you are correct, Tinley Park is looking at starting in late summer or early fall.

Crazy behavior

Today while awaiting for the Heritage Corridor 6:57 a.m. Summit stop I witnessed several women climbing across the freight train that was blocking the crosswalk to platform number 1.

An announcement came over the speakers that we would be boarding from platform number 1.

Obviously the stopped freight trade blocked commuters from crossing over to platform number 1. My only thought was that I would call my boss and let her know I'd be late coming into the office.

However, a group of several women decided to climb onto and in between two of the freight cars in order cross over to platform number 1. I couldn't believe what I was seeing! Any number of things could have happened to these women. I would love to have these pictures posted in *On The Bi-Level* in order for people to see the lack of judgement that people have when trying to make a train.

Seriously, is this action taken

really worth risking life and limb?

The pictures have not been altered and were taken from the rear window from within my car using my cell phone camera.

Bridget

We're not using the pictures because they wouldn't reproduce too well here, but rest assured, they do show some crazy behavior. We shudder to think what could have happened if that freight train had suddenly started moving. It should go without saying that passengers should not be doing this.

Crowded platform

I take the 412 into the Rock Island station, and it seems to me to be an awfully full train, yet every morning it comes into the station on one of the narrowest platforms. Why could such a full train not come in on one of the center tracks where the platforms are wider and would allow a quicker exit rather than the funeral march we currently have to endure on the narrower platform?

Melody

At that time of day, all our platforms are in use, so we can't switch to a different one.

Apologies all around

I want to send my most sincere apologies to the crew on the North Central Service train that runs express through Mont Clare at 8:15 am each morning. I made a horrible decision to run through the tracks when the train was just around the corner, thinking it was my train pulling in. I felt HORRIBLE afterwards just thinking what could have happened to me and what the crew would have gone through and witnessed. I will never, ever do it again.

Agnes

Apology accepted, thanks.