

SAFETY IN THE PARK:

FREIGHT-RAIL ACTION COMMITTEE

We are a grass-roots organization concerned about the proposed increase of heavy freight rail traffic on the north/south MN&S spur and the BNSF mainline in St. Louis Park. Members of Safety in the Park have participated in every study, consultancy, meeting, dialogue and task force on this issue for the last 10 years. We are currently working with Hennepin County, the City of St. Louis Park and the State of Minnesota on solutions. We are well informed and well organized. **We are not opposed to light rail.**

Safety is our greatest goal. We are strongly encouraging Hennepin County to reevaluate the freight-rail corridor options. The evaluation must be made on a fair and equal basis by forecasting the need for a true rail corridor along the MN&S route on par with the Kenilworth and 29th Street corridors.

A rail corridor must include, but not be limited to the following:

- 75 feet of right of way on each side of the tracks and no more than one grade level crossing per mile.
- Study and approval of ground contamination problems by the EPA.
- Crossing arms that cannot be avoided by drivers.
- Welded rail.
- Bells, not whistles, at intersections.
- Berms along the MN&S to reduce sound pollution.
- Landscaping to discourage people (especially students) from crossing the tracks.
- Sound walls on the BNSF east of the MN&S spur to reduce sound pollution.
- Removal of the switching wye in the Elmwood neighborhood
- A pedestrian bridge crossing the BNSF tracks to connect the either the Birchwood or Lake Forest neighborhood to the “West End” commercial area.

For more information look for our Facebook page:

“Safety in the Park”

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