

The Blue Island Development Corporation

Publisher of the **FORUM** Newspaper

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DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION

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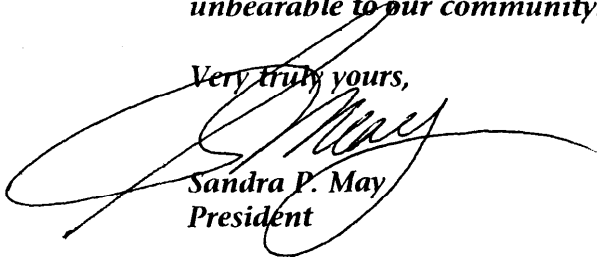
January 2000

At the end of 1999, the FORUM Newspaper requested that readers communicate their concerns regarding a long-term problem in our area—long train blockages and loud and numerous whistle blowing at crossings. A copy of one of our articles is attached.

Citizen response was overwhelming, angry and demanded answers.

We are sending you samples of citizen replies and a summary of our survey results. We ask for your input and consideration of solutions to a situation that has become unbearable to our community.

Very truly yours,



Sandra P. May
President

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What Disrupts Your Life the Most?

Train blockages	58	
Neither	2	
Loud train whistles	4	
Both	50	
	0	
Total Responses:		118

Do Train Whistles Affect You In Your House or Yard?

			If Yes, To What Degree?	
				0
			extremely loud	40
			loud	23
			somewhat loud	7
yes	79			0
	0			
Total Responses:				118

On Average, How Many Times a Week Are You Stopped by a Train?

Number of Times Stopped

For How Long?

02

25

25

18

18

15

15

15

15

15

15

15

11

8

5

Number of Responses: 17

Average Time Stopped: 18.71 Mins

01

45

20

20

20

20

15

13

10

5

Number of Responses: 9

Average Time Stopped: 18.67 Mins

Number of Responses: 0

Average Time Stopped: Mins

Total Times Per Week Stopped by Trains and Average Time Stopped

116

24.92 Mins

On Average, How Many Times a Week Are You Stopped by a Train?

Number of Times Stopped

For How Long?

	05		15
			15
			8
			8
			5
Number of Responses:	18	Average Time Stopped:	26.06 Mins
	04		45
			43
			25
			20
			20
			15
			15
			15
			15
			13
			13
Number of Responses:	13	Average Time Stopped:	21.73 Mins
	03		60
			45
			30
			30
			30
			30
			30
			30
			25
			25
			20
			20
			20
			18
			15
			15
			15
			15
			15
			15
			13
			13
			10
			10
			10
			10
			10
Number of Responses:	29	Average Time Stopped:	21.44 Mins
	02		30
			30
			30
			28

On Average, How Many Times a Week Are You Stopped by a Train?

Number of Times Stopped

For How Long?

Number of Responses:	23	1	Average Time Stopped:	30	30.00	Mins
	20			120		
Number of Responses:		2	Average Time Stopped:	10	65.00	Mins
	12			30		
Number of Responses:		1	Average Time Stopped:	30	30.00	Mins
	10			30		
Number of Responses:		3	Average Time Stopped:	60	36.67	Mins
	09			30		
Number of Responses:		1	Average Time Stopped:	30	30.00	Mins
	08			60		
Number of Responses:		2	Average Time Stopped:	18	39.00	Mins
	07			150		
				60		
				45		
				30		
				25		
				25		
				23		
				23		
				20		
				20		
				18		
				15		
				13		
Number of Responses:	14		Average Time Stopped:	35.92	Mins	
	06			25		
				15		
				15		
				8		
Number of Responses:		5	Average Time Stopped:	15.75	Mins	
	05			180		
				25		
				25		
				25		
				20		
				20		
				20		
				20		
				18		
				15		
				15		
				15		

#	disrupts most	whistle degree	affect sleep	stop/week	# Min	safety problem	positive/negative	Suggestions
4	Train blockages		yes	05	15	pedestrians crossing without safety being taken	positive because they are making important deliveries and negative stop and block traffic	
5	Train blockages		yes	03	15	emergency vehicles		shorter trains

#	disrupts most	whistle blows	at the stop	10	60	everything	safety problem	positive response	suggestions
6	loud					too many			keep the trains from blocking 127th California
7	rain blockages								

#	disrupts most	whistle degree	affect sleep	stop/week	# Min	safety problem	positive/negative	Suggestions
8	Train blockages	loud	sometimes	05	20	children going to school and hopping through the trains to get to the other side.	people rushing to beat the train	run their trains outside of the traffic rush hours.
9		loud	sometimes	01	20	people trying to beat them	nice	overpass or underpasses

disrupts most	whistle regime	affect sleep	steps/week	safety problem	positive/negative	Suggestions
10 Both	extremely loud	yes	02	30		
11 Both	extremely loud	yes	04	43		

#	disrupts most	whistle degree	affect sleep	stop/week	# Min.	safety problem	positive/negative	Suggestions
12	Both	extremely loud	yes	03	30	emergency vehicles and children going to school		
13	Train blockages	loud	yes	08	18	exhaust fumes coming into my home during the summer because of the train blockage		No solution this problem. It has been going on for years the government (Illinois and Federal) has yet to do anything about it. Eliminate the number of trains using their yard.

#	disrupts most	whistle degree	affects sleep	stopwatch	Min	safety problem	positive/negative	Suggestions
14	Both	loud	yes	04	15	frustrated walkers trying to cross when train is coming.	waste of car gasoline	shorten the size of the rolling stock.
15	train blockages		no	03	10	emergency vehicles trying to get through	keep them moving	keep the trains moving without those long delays.

#	disrupts most	whistle degree	affect sleep	stop/weak	# Min	safety problem	positive/negative	Suggestions
16	Train blockages			04	20	to keep them moving	keep moving	keep moving
17	Both	extremely loud	yes	03	60			

#	disrupts most	whistle degree	affect sleep	stop work	# Min	safe problem	positive/negative	Suggestions
18	Train blockages		sometimes	01	20			
19	Train blockages	somewhat loud	no	05	20	emergency vehicles	can't get home	shortertrains and keep them moving

#	disrupts most	whistle degree	affect sleep	stop/miss	# Min	safety problem	positive/negative	Suggestions
20	Train block kages	no	no	04	13			shorter trains
21	Train blockages loud	yes		02	5			

ID	disrupts most	whistle degree	affect sleep	stop work	4 Min	safety problem	positive/negative	Suggestions
22	Train blockages			01	20			overpass
23	Train blockages		no	03	10			overpass

#	disrupts most	whistle degree	affect sleep	stop/work	F Min	family problem	positive/negative	Suggestions
24	Train blockages	somewhat loud	sometimes	07	25			shorter trains
25	Train blockages	extremely loud	sometimes	12	30	children and adults jumping through the trains.	goods being delivered but trains are too long	stop the whistle, shorten trains add more tracks in yards or have more yards for trains to go to.

Sample		03		30		02		02	
26	Train blockages								viaduct and or limit the trains.
27	Train blockages						25 emergency vehicles		raise the lines with viaducts.

District	Age	Frequency	Severity	Comments
28	Both	sometimes	D4	viaducts
29	Both	20 emergencies	D4	let's bridge over them
		25	kids crossing between them	there is no positive

#	disrupts most	whistle degree	affect sleep	stop/week	# Min	safety problem	positive/negative	Suggestions
30	Train blockages loud		sometimes	05	5	people walking through trains while stopped		overpass on 127th California would mean reducing noise and blockage. Would need to redesign area but in long run help out the problem
31	Train blockages		sometimes	01	10	emergency vehicles getting through	means jobs for people negative is the delay in traffic	overpass underpass and stop blowing the whistles

#	disrupts most	whistle decrtee	affect sleep	stop week	# Min	safety problem	positive/negative	Suggestions
32	Train blockages	loud	sometimes	03	20	safety		shorter trains
33	Both	loud	yes	03	10	beating the gates and cars backing up to find a new way	nothing positive too much horn blowing through the city	horns whistles must be adjusted to be quieter and rules for engineers not to blow them so long or loud

The FORUM Rail Rage Survey Results

1/17/00

disrupts most	whistle blowing	aff. of sleep	stop wheel	7 Min	safty problem	positive negative	suggestions
34 Train blockages	no	07		20 Traffic jams	delays getting in and out of town and getting to work on time. Emergency vehicles having to take alternate longer routes.	overpass or underpass	
35 Train blockages	loud	sometimes	01	45 emergency Vehicles	good jobs	Long loud whistles and people going through the gates at 123rd St. those people are nuts	

36	Both	lo'id	sometimes	02	11	kids trying to beat the trains	nothing positive kids will be killed trying to get to school	shorter trains and less whistle blowing.
37	Both	extremely loud	sometimes	05	20	going around gates and climbing trains		build a new train yard farther south large enough to handle trains not able to get into present yard.

The FORUM Rail Rage Survey Results

1/17/00

disrupts most	whistle degree	affect sleep	stop/week	# of Mir	safety problem	positive negative	Suggestions
38 Both		sometimes	05	15	yes at 123rd St. There is not enough line of sight	to many delays always late for dates.	overpasses. Trains should have no more than 10 minutes at a time to block intersections.
39 Both	loud	sometimes	20	10	kids getting to school and emergency vehicles	there is no positive aspect	since paying a fine does nothing to correct the situation how about some jail time for the executive officers

#	disrupts most	whistle degree	affect sleep	stop/week	# Min	safety problem	positive/negative	Suggestions
40	Both		no	07	23		one day I will crash the gates from being so pissed off	blow up the trains and build an overpass for these f..... trains. I hate them I have a disabled person at home whom I have to feed lunch and the trains take away my time away from him
41	Train blockages			03	20	people trying to beat them	goods being moved.	long freight trains move during evening hours. Late

The FORUM Rail Rage Survey Results

1/17/00

Disrupts most	whistle degree	affect sleep	stop work	# Min	safety problem	positive/negative	suggestions
42 Train blockages			06	25	lack of concern by the railroad upon the neighborhood people and business.	cannot comment on the noise. But the blockage is out of line especially with St. Francis down the street.	
43 Train blockages	extremely loud	yes	03	15	trying to beat the trains	too many too long too slow and too loud.	limit horns limit length don't allow stopping to block street and build overpasses

#	disrupts most	whistle degree	affect sleep	stop/week	# Min	safety problem	positive/negative	Suggestions
44	Both	somewhat loud	sometimes	02	8		ave 75 cars instead of 50 cars.	lower train noise such as low intervals instead of blasting at one time. Run long trains 11 PM to 5AM
45	Both	oud	sometimes	05	8	cars going around lates and people rossing between topped trains.	roducts being shipped egative each is too ong engines unable to ull load	imit the # of times whistles are used especially at night build verpasses. Get 124th St. crossing repaired. Dangerous

#	disrupts me	whistle/degree	affect sleep	stop/week	# Miles	safety problem	positive/negative	Suggestions
46	Both	extremely loud	yes	05	15			emergency vehicles getting through
47	Both			06	8	teach the children the dangers of crossing	too many trains to long and blocked crossing	lived here almost 75 years and the noise has never been so bad.

#	disrupts most	whistle degree	affect sleep	stop/week	# Min	safety problem	positive/negative	Suggestions
48	Train blockages			03		cars speeding down alternate streets		hold railroads accountable they should have a way of controlling blockages.
49	Train blockages	loud	yes	02	28	frustrated people cause accidents	none	put cabooses back on. Shorten trains seems like cars have no rights only trains.

The FORUM Rail Rage Survey Results

1/17/00

#	disrupts most	whistle degree	affect sleep	stop work	# Min	safety problem	positive/negative	Suggestions
50	Both		yes	03	20	aggravation leads to road rage	no positives blockages and noise	overpasses
51	Both	extremely loud	yes	09	30	everything in life		railroad does not care about the community

#	disrupts most	whistle degree	affect sleep	stop/week	# Min	safety problem	positive/negative	Suggestions
52	Both	extremely loud	yes			i am a senior citizen and may have to move		Please investigate if my townhouse is to close to the train tracks. 489-1720 please call
53	Both	extremely loud	yes	07	30	emergency vehicles	trains get longer everyday feel vibration in my house	stronger fines

#	disrupts most	whistle degree	caused sleep	stop/yes	if safety problem	positive/negative	suggestions
54	Both	extremely loud	yes	02	15 school children and emergency vehicles	no positives many many negatives	The whistles are due to the laws passed because of the school bus accident up north. Whistles won't stop gate runners.
55	Train blockages		no	08	60 kids climbing through stopped trains emergency. Vehicles can't get through and traffic afterwards		Over or underpasses time of day restrictions and # boxcars per train.

ID	disrupts m/c's	whistle degree	affect sleep	stop work	Min	safety problem	positive/negative	Suggestions
56	Both	extremely loud	yes	03	45	too many trains		send them somewhere else. Shorter trains and control the whistling.
57	Train blockages			03	18	people get aggravated by this and drive crazy, traffic congestion also.	cause backups for miles. Took 45 minutes to get from Cicero. Ridiculous	overpasses

disrupts most	whistle blows	affect sleep	stop/walk	Min.	safety problem	positive/negative	Suggestions
58 Train blockages			05	25	emergency vehicles	pollution with the cars waiting for the trains to pass	re-rout the trains out of town bypassing the City.
59 Train blockages		yes	06		emergency vehicles	delays for appointments	enough time scheduled between trains.

#	disrupts most	whistle degree	affect sleep	stop/wake	# Mt	safety problem	positive/negative	Suggestions
60	Train blockages	extremely Loud	yes	03	0			faster trains no stopping
61	Both	Loud	yes	13	25	kids trying to beat trains walking thorough when they are stopped	Gross	overpass make B.I. A better place to live.

The FORUM Rail Rage Survey Results

1/17/00

#	disrupts most	whistle degree	affect sleep	stop/week	# min	safety problem	positive/negative	suggestions
62	Train blockages	loud	sometimes	C5	18	Students trying to get to school increased traffic on side roads.	people working for the railroad have jobs negative is the safety concerns of Blue Islanders	overpasses and it seems like they block the streets. At 127th and 123rd going south. Trying to get into the Riverdale yard better communication between engineers and yard people.
63	Train blockages			C3	13	emergency vehicles	I can't get into my driveway because of the cars blocking it due to the trains.	Fine the engineer personally. Please keep up the campaign to alleviate this problem it is really a bad situation.

#	disrupts most	whistle degree	affect sleep	stop/week	# Min	safety problem	positive/negative	Suggestions
64	Train blockages		sometimes	07	13	Emergency vehicles	underpass or overpass Positive I can read my bible spiritual time to pray for local government out of town mediation Negative people will stay out of B.I.	small section of BI blocked by trains Thorton rd, 139th & Western 135th & Western 139 kedzie not safe in case of emergency
65	Train blockages	extremely loud	sometimes	02	15	kids trying to get to school and to their little league games		I love the subway systems let's put them in the tunnel.

#	disrupts most	whistle degree	affect sleep	stopw	Min	safety problem	positive/negative	Suggestions
66	Both	extremely loud	yes	07	45	Pedestrians walking through stopped trains.	trains run too close together stopped trains on crossings	N whistles(loud) dark time 70 cars or less per engine hump clear when trains entering yards (trainmaster job) no stopping on crossings and large fines enforced.
67	Both	extremely loud	yes	02	25	Traffic trying to find ways around the trains especially on Maple Ave. in the morning.	No positives negative there are too many trains and they are to long and to loud.	no heavy long trains my house shakes when they go by.

#	disrupts most	whistle degree	affect sleep	stop/week	# Min	safety problem	positive/negative	Suggestions
68	Train blockages	somewhat loud		10	20	people/cars trying to beat the train	knock of the whistles we have gates. Under or overpass limit length and times they move through town	
69	Br...	extremely loud	yes	07	150	noise pollution need overhead structure	waste of gas and time	overpass

#	disrupts mos.	whistle degree	affect sleep	stop/week	W. Min.	safety problem	positive/negative	suggestion
70	Train blockages		no	07	23	road rage	one day I will crash the gates from being so pissed off.	
71	Both	extremely loud	yes	03	10	school children trying to beat the trains	Noise is most disturbing	reduce the amount and time of the train whistles.

#	disrupts most	whistle degree	affect sleep	stop/week	# Min	safety problem	positive/negative	Suggestions
72	Train blockages			01	15	people becoming impatient and agitated then taking chances		no solution
73	Both	extremely loud	sometimes	04	15			limit train whistles make it illegal to block crossing please help before I sell

#	disrupts mos	whistle degree	affect sleep	stop week	Min	safety problem	positive/negative	Suggestions
74	Both	extremely loud	yes	03	30	going around gates and children trying to get to school	nothing positive and they keep people from coming to BI	Shorter trains, better dispatch,
75	Both	extremely loud	sometimes	03	25	emergency vehicles	lived in BI 35 years and in past few years have been the worse for noise and whistle blowing.	

#	disrupts most	whistle degree	affect sleep	stop week	# Min	safety problem	positive/negative	Suggestions
76	Train blockages			03	30	fire trucks being blocked		build overpasses let the railroads pay for it.
77	Both	extremely loud	yes	04	13	going around the gates	overpass	noise keeps my babies awake or wakes them when sleeping

The FORUM Rail Rage Survey Results

1/17/00

#	disrupts most	whistle degree	affect sleep	stop/week	# Min	safety problem	positive/negative	suggestions
78	Neither			01	20	people crossing when gates are down	underpass or overpass	get money from Fed. Gov. to build the overpasses.
79	Train blockages	loud	sometimes	05	8	trying to get to the hospital		

#	disrupts most	whistle degree	affect sleep	stop/week	# Min	safety problem	positive/negative	Suggestions
80	Both	extremely loud	yes	02	18	emergency vehicles	positive none Negative: noise and blockages	lower the noise on the whistling a minimum allowed to block traffic
81	Both	extremely loud	yes	07	18	many aspects. Slamming cars in the middle of the night can't get to the Metra to get to work on time		viaducts

#	disrupts mos.	whistle degree	affected sleep	stop weak	min	safety problem	positive/negative	Suggestions
82	Both	loud	sometimes	03	25	Nothing positive. Blocking neighborhood streets.	nothing positive	shorter trains.
83	Both	somewhat loud	sometimes	06	15	crossing are blocked.	Yardmaster should do a better job.	overpass

#	disrupts most	whistle blowing	affect sleep	stop work	Min	safety problem	positive/negative	Suggestions
84	Both	extremely loud	sometimes	03		students trying to get to school	freight is good for the economy	Put a traffic light at Vermont and California Street. Make Mozart a one way going north.
85	Train blockages	loud	no	07		Police watching for people going around the gates instead of doing other duties	if someone wants my vote this is a #1 issue in BI	viaducts at key crossings plus heavy fines.

#	disrupts most	whistle degree	allowed sleep	stop work	Min	safety problem	positive/negative	Suggestions
86	Loud train whistles	extremely loud	yes	03	13	positive-none Negative is this suburban living?	overpasses...the whistle blowing has become unbearable	
87	Train blockages	somewhat loud	no	02	18	emergency vehicles	no positives...trains are too long	jail time for the companies.

#	disrupts most	whistle degree	affect sleep	stop work	Min	safety problem	Positive/negative	Suggestions
88	Both	extremely loud	Yes	03	15	people trying to beat the trains	nothing positive and people will move out of our community	run trains after rush hour. Cut the whistle blowing as the gates are down.
89	Train blockages			07	15	Negative-stress Pos. nothing	run longer trains early morning and late evenings.	impossible to get my daughter to and from TLC Learning center. Center is between 2 crossings.

#	disrupts most	whistle degree	affect sleep	stop/week	# Min	safety problem	positive/negative	Suggestions
90	Both	somewhat loud	sometimes	05	15	ing around the gates.	freight is necessary transportation. Negative blocking traffic	127th st. overpass.
91	Train blockages	extremely loud	yes	03	15	emergency vehicles	increases good economy	limit whistles to 2 and not 6 or 8 times. Shorter trains so they can get in the yard.

#	disrupts most	whistle degree	affect sleep	stop/week	# Min	safety problem	positive/negative	Suggestions
92	Train blockages	loud	yes	02	15	driving around the gates.	no positive only negative safety for the people	shorter trains during rush hours. Whistle blowing has to stop
93	Both		yes	05	15	auto pollution and congestion	there is no positive	no ideas.

disrupts most	whistle degree	affects sleep	stop work	Min	safety problem	positive gain	Suggestions
94 Loud train whistles	Yes	02	15	road rage			consider the home owner with those loud whistles at 2 am
95 Both	Extremely Loud	Yes	23	30	Cars going through when gates are down.		Separate trains so people can go through. Years ago trains were separated to we did not have to wait and no one was upset.

#	disrupts most	whistle degree	affect sleep	stop/week	# Min	safety problem	positive/negative	Suggestions
96	Train blockages		No	07	25	Kids trying to cross while train is moving slowly or momentarily stopped.	Hopefully they're good for commerce. Safety issues (i.e., I saw 4 fire trucks and an ambulance waiting for approximately 20 minutes with sirens blasting.	Cut train length. Have conductors available so last 2 cars don't block intersection. Schedule trains for off peak hours. Limit to one train at a time, NOT to be followed by another. Clear train yard ahead so they can move at a reasonable speed without stopping. Longterm: over and/or underpass are a must. Use fine money towards construction of over/underpass. Maintain an accurate log of the times trains run and how long they block intersections to be used as a baseline for future improvements. To establish revenue the city can sell permits prior to passage on a monthly basis. Let city council be more responsible and liable for inconveniences.
97	Loud train whistles	Loud	Yes	1	13	People racing down side streets to avoid the crossings. It really gets crazy.	Most negative for our family is interrupted sleep between 1-3 AM. It's getting worse!	appreciate the effort of our city to ticket these trains for blocked crossings. What can they do for the prolonged, excessive whistle blowing? I believe it is in retaliation for all those tickets.

#	disrupts most	whistle signals	affect sleep	stop work	Minor safety problem	positive/negative	Suggestions
98	Both	Extremely Loud	Sometimes	03	15 Lack of bridges in this heavy car traffic town is a set-up for disaster.	Trains represent danger to car traffic and children and unpleasant noise at all hours.	City, state and federal railroad company financial commitment to build bridges. Chicago did this years ago and despite heavy railroads in the city, no or few grade crossings are found. Blue Island is fully urbanized and needs bridges!
99	Train blockages	Extremely Loud	Yes	05	20 If the trains moved fast all the time it wouldn't be a problem.		Some kind of light signals coming from the train and maybe sound horn once closer to crossways. Gates go without saying. Use signal lights for conductor track changes. People do have lives and don't have all day waiting for trains. Inconsiderate!

#	disrupts most	whistle degree	affect sleep	stop/week	# Min.	safety problem	positive/negative	Suggestions
100	Train blockages		No	20	120	Cars going around the gates.	Positive for the economy. Negative going around the town to get anywhere.	I have no solution yet to the blockages. Why can't trains use blue flasher lights. People have their windows rolled up and don't hear whistles anyway.
101	Both	Extremely Loud	Yes	02	30	Road rage. Making up lost travel time when roads are blocked.	Ignorant to the busy times of the day. Running longer trains. Noise.	Shorter trains, better scheduling, avoid early morning hours when working people and children must get to work and school. Avoid 8-9 AM and 4-6 PM trains.

#	disrupts most	whistle regime	safe	sleep	miss	miss	miss	miss	miss	miss	miss	positive negative	Suggestions
102	Both	Extremely Loud	Yes	04								Nothing positive.	Overpass on 127th Street
103	Loud train whistles	Extremely Loud	Yes	05									ENFORCE the gate crossing law (with cameras if necessary). Reduce horn to 2 or 3 one second bursts and fine the engineer personally if it's not adhered to. It takes a minute to couple and uncouple cars. If stopped for any period of time, uncouple and open gates. Slapping a large company's hand will never get the point across, as we've seen.

The FORUM Rail Rage Survey Results

#	disrupts most	whistle degree	affect sleep	stop/week	# Mil	safety problem	positive/negative	Suggestions
104	Train blockages		No	02	3		Wasted time when trains block a crossing. It is very aggravating.	On September 30, 1999 I was stopped between Maple & Kedzie on 119th St. for 1/2 hour. After going back to 131st & Kedzie, then over to Maple, as I pulled in to my garage the train was still sitting. It was over an hour before the train moved. I don't know of a solution, but it is very inconvenient when they block crossings for such a long time.
105	Both	Extremely Loud	Sometimes	04	15	Going around the gates.	Too many trains and too long.	

#	disrupts most	whistle degree	affect sleep	stop/week	Min	safety problem	positive/negative	suggestions
106	Train blockages		No	11	30	Emergency vehicles being blocked by trains.	No positive. Negative, they are way too long and too slow.	If they block an intersection longer than 15 minutes they should be pulled apart. Build an overpass.
107	Both	Loud	Yes	06	15	Emergency vehicles cannot respond quickly.	Kids late for school and streets blocked with cars for the train blockage.	Overpass.

#	disrupts most	whistle degree	affect sleep	stop/work	# Min	safety problem	positive/negative	Suggestions
108	Train blockages	Extremely Loud	Yes	04	45	Traffic pile-up.	Negative, too many long trains.	Please shorten the amount of cars. The loud long whistles are very disturbing day & night.
109	Both	Extremely Loud	sometimes	07	60	People trying to beat the trains. Kids jumping the trains while stopped.	It is a shame that a train can be 110 cars long. There is nothing positive about these trains.	If the train only blows the whistle once a few minutes before it reaches the gate and cut it down to maybe 40 cars, depending on the speed the train is going.

#	disrupts most	whistle degree	affect sleep	stop work	# Min	safety problem	positive/negative	Suggestions
110	Train blockages		No	03	15	Cannot get to the hospital.	Positive is needed business. Negative is loss in productivity for everyone else.	Build viaducts! We need a Value Engineering Analysis performed (Public Law 104-106) for federal money.
111	Train blockages		lo	04		Blocked emergency vehicles, kids hopping trains, people (like me) speeding around town to get around them, BIPD going around gates	Positive trains are good for the economy. Negatives are listed above.	Mayor Feloquin why don't you give us a solution to the train problems? You've been mayor for how many years now and we still have a problem with the trains. How about slapping a lawsuit on the railroads! This problem should have been addressed years ago. City officials get off your butts and do something about this! The longer you wait, the greater chance of injury or death to train hoppers and gate crossers. It's time for a new mayor.

#	disrupts most	whistle degree	affect sleep	stop/week	# Min	safety problem	positive/negative	Suggestions
112	Both	Extremely Loud	Yes	10	30	Emergency vehicles or cars trying to beat [the trains at crossings.	Time and money is what it costs us and soon they will cost the city good citizens.	I like the longer trains at night idea. Also, less whistles at crossings. I'm sick of those whistle happy engineers. 1 or 2 whistle blows is sufficient. My wife is pregnant and has a lot of trouble getting a good nights rest. We're moving away ASAP.
113	Both	Loud	Yes	17	20	Emergency vehicles unable to get through.	Negative aspect is the residence have no empowering voice with the railroads. Government turned their heads and allowed these things to happen. Unlike the airports we can't get the EPA to come in and make the railroads put up sound barriers to lessen the noise.	Get the EPA actively involved in the problem with the noise pollution. Reducing train schedules during rush hour traffic and running later at night.

#	disrupts most	whistle, degree	affect sleep	stop/week	# Min	seriously problem	positively negative	Suggestions
114	Both	extremely loud	yes	03	30			underground routes different type of whistles to loud
115	Train blockages		no	05	20	emergency equipment to the condos		overpass or underpass

ID	disrupts most	w/inside degree	if it's deep	into work	main safety problem	is it a positive	solution
116	Train blockages		05		180 people using side streets to avoid the trains.	it is a great job. Why would they complain with a good job like they have.	Get Federal RR commission in volved.
117			04	15	major traffic problems		do something or I am moving out of town.

#	disrupts most	whistle degree	effect sleep	start week	MI	causes problems	positive/negative	Suggestions
118	Train blockages		03		30	Cars making U turns and kids going thorough the trains when standing.	tracks are in bad condition emergency trucks trying to get thorough.	viaducts
119	Neither		01		5	kids crossing tracks Road Rage		leave for work earlier.

#	disrupts most	whistle degree	affect sleep	stop/work	# Min	safety problem	positive/negative	Suggestions
120								shorter trains options are limited.
121	Train blockages			02	15	traffic backed up cars making U turns to get out.	let the long ones go at late night not during the day.	Contact the RR commission and work something out for all of us in this town.

FORUM

DECEMBER 8, 1999

THE NEWS OF BLUE ISLAND FREE Semimonthly

Holiday
Greetings

'Rail Rage

or what can the private-citizen really do?

by Sandy 'May

Well, good and loyal readers, here it is—the results of the FORUM survey on railroad noise making and blockages gleaned from your comments.

To begin, I will present totals and figures i.e., data from the first 118 questionnaires returned to us.' In regard to your responses, we expected the anger so many of you expressed, but were not prepared for the depth of your feelings, your unhappiness and sense of desperation. We sympathize totally and are going to help.

This article contains the beginning segment of the history of the problem which I found very enlightening from a reader who took the time to send me a very detailed E-mail. A former railroad employee, he will enlarge our understanding. And we print the brief, but bitter letter, from Senator O'Malley. Usually mild-mannered, the Senator exhibits a sense of frustration with legislators and railroad officials (how well we know!)

On the positive side, we printed State Representative James Brosnahan's (D-36th district) letter to the Illinois Commerce Commission in the November FORUM. As a result of his efforts, a monitoring device will be installed in the signal cabinet of the 123rd Street crossing for one month. It is to record railroad operations and crossing blockages; Michael E. Stead, of the Railroad Safety Program Administration has

