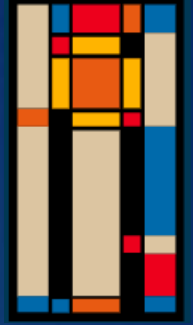




RIVER FOREST

Proud Heritage • Bright Future



River Forest and the Union Pacific Third Mainline Expansion Project

CITIZEN, GOVERNMENT AND RAILROAD COLLABORATION
FOUNDATIONS FOR SUCCESS

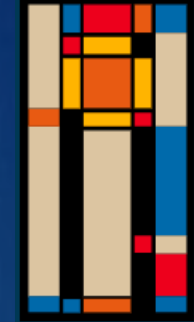
Cathy Adduci, President, Village of River Forest

Megan Keskitalo, River Forest Rail Traffic Pollution Protection Group



RIVER FOREST

Proud Heritage • Bright Future



Approval granted for UP 3rd Mainline Expansion project

Project is reviewed in RF but the DCE doesn't indicate any substantial impacts in the area

Due to this no public hearing was held in RF

2016

Process delayed as Union Pacific changed village representatives

Village continued to try to engage with Union Pacific without additional citizen support

Citizens re-ignited the process in Spring 2019

Fall 2018-Spring 2019

Agreements with Union Pacific and Metra reached by VRF Administration

Fencing, gates and Acoustiblok noise reduction material installed, Metra to study Acoustiblok

Structural safety of access road discussions continue

Spring-Summer 2020

Summer 2018

Landscaping clearcut and an access road installed

Residents met with village officials and then with UP for the first time with village support

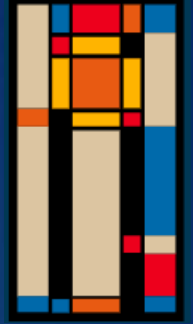
Summer-Fall 2019

Engaged with Union Pacific and Metra representation, State Sen. Kimberly A Lightford on solutions advocated by VRF Admin, Sen. Lightford integral in success



RIVER FOREST

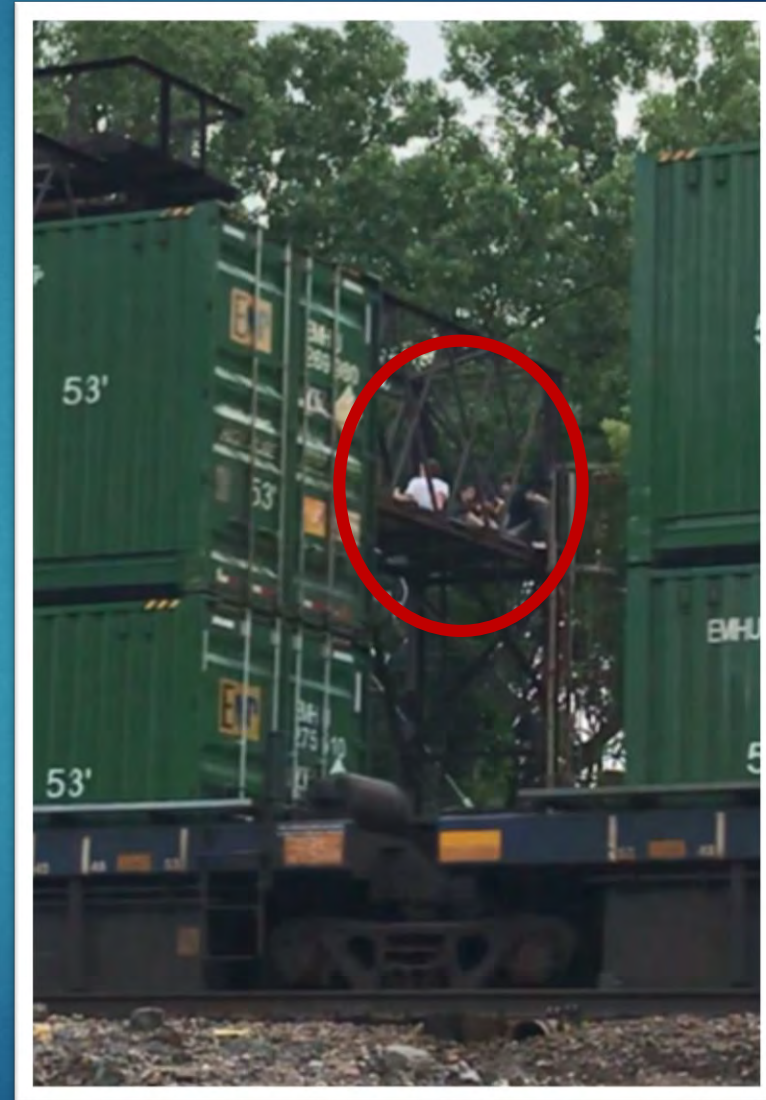
Proud Heritage • Bright Future

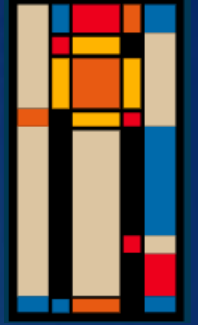


The Problem

Unintended consequences:

- Uninformed residents
- Loss of landscaping
- Increased noise
- Unanticipated need for an unplanned and unpermitted access road
- Access road led to additional trespassing on the tracks
- Children in danger





Challenges

- Impacted citizens not invited to process early on
- Turnover at UP left the VRF without a liaison at a critical time
- Coordination between railroad and VRF administration lacking in regards to new access road
- Working with State Government and Federal Railroads requires an extensive timeline
- Citizen expectations need to be managed
- Continuous communication needed with stakeholders within UP
- Municipal code violations need to be addressed (where not disruptive to interstate commerce) can be difficult to engage
- It was difficult to maintain momentum with changes and challenges over the course of two years



RIVER FOREST

Proud Heritage • Bright Future

Keys to Success

- Early engagement: prior to project approval, all impacted residents need awareness and the ability to weigh in
- State support: engage with municipal leaders and state and national representatives
- Strong leadership: municipality leadership needs to spearhead the process
- Clear asks and proposed solutions
- Continued citizen engagement throughout process
- Reasonable expectations
- Deep knowledge of relevant federal regulations and guidelines
- Strategic media usage
- Persistence

