

July 16, 2008

Honorable Representative Jack McGuire
Illinois House of Representatives – 86th District
121 Springfield Avenue
Joliet, Illinois 60435

Honorable Senator A. J. Wilhelmi
Illinois Senate – 43rd District
220 Weber Road
Crest Hill, Illinois 60403

Honorable Lawrence M. Walsh
Will County Executive
Will County Office Building
302 North Chicago Avenue
Joliet, Illinois 60432

Re: CenterPoint Intermodal Center – Joliet
Joliet, Illinois

Dear Representative McGuire, Senator Wilhelmi and Executive Walsh:

Thank you for your letter dated July 11, 2008 expressing concerns and suggestions about the proposed roadway configurations at the new CenterPoint Intermodal Center – Joliet. CenterPoint shares your desire to achieve a safe, efficient and convenient system of roads through the project area, and I am confident the Joliet City Council, City Manager and other City staff are in agreement with these goals. As is often the case in designing the transportation infrastructure for a major regional development, competing policy considerations call for sensible and fair compromises in achieving an outcome that best serves the broadest possible public good.

Early in the process, the leadership of the City of Joliet stressed the need to minimize the potential impact of truck traffic to Illinois Route 53. Working with our transportation engineering team and key City staff, we have developed a plan which channels truck traffic to Arsenal Road and then to Interstate 55. I believe that each of you has expressed much the same goal on behalf of your local constituents, as have other elected officials.

We also placed a high premium on the objective of separating as much as feasible truck traffic from passenger vehicles on the interior of the new intermodal park – a common sense safety approach.

To achieve a high level of success in implementing this plan without placing reliance solely on traffic enforcement by police personnel, we needed to devise a system of physical constraints that would substantially impede undesirable traffic patterns. Of necessity, that needed to include roadway weight limits, and in some instances, the closure of certain road segments that would otherwise allow unrestricted truck travel to and from Route 53.

Both CenterPoint and City staff have proposed that portions of existing Brandon Road be closed, and we acknowledge that this decision will result in an unfortunate inconvenience to certain citizens who regularly use Brandon as a means of travel. And while the master roadway plan has heretofore called for a partial closure of Patterson Road in the vicinity of Schweitzer Road, we understand and appreciate your recommendation that this partially closed segment of Patterson Road remain open for passenger vehicles only.

As our transportation plan moves from concept to design, and from design to implementation, we pledge to work diligently with the City of Joliet to investigate alternatives that will impede undesirable truck movements yet nonetheless allow passenger vehicles to move north and south on Patterson Road from Millsdale Road to Laraway Road. We also ask for your continued leadership in the decision-making process so that the concerns of all of your constituents are accounted for in finding creative solutions.

Sincerely yours,



Michael M. Mullen
Chief Executive Officer

cc: Honorable Mayor Arthur Schultz
Members of the Joliet City Council
Mr. Thomas Thanas