



Railway Association of Canada

RAILWAY / COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT OF PROXIMITY ISSUES

by Mike Lowenger, RAC

RAC Regional and Short Line Conference

November 02, 2001
Ottawa, Ontario



Railway / Community Partnerships

ROLE OF RAILWAYS IN THE COMMUNITY

- **1350 communities served directly by rail**
- **Other communities served through inter-modal connections**
- **Transportation of key commodities to and from communities and related industries**
- **450 communities served by passenger rail**
- **Railways reduce road congestion, pollution**
- **Tourist train operations promote local economies**



Railway / Community Partnerships

RAILWAY/COMMUNITY PROXIMITY ISSUES

▪ Proximity concerns on the rise

Economic growth in Canada:

- *Growth of Municipalities around railways*
- *Increased movement of goods & people*
- *Increased demand on rail operations*

Trucks, buses and cars also contribute to proximity problems:

- *No responsibility for infra-structure*



Railway / Community Partnerships

RAILWAY/COMMUNITY PROXIMITY ISSUES

- Railways and Communities both contribute to “problems”:
 - *Urban Planning / land development issues*
 - *Changes in railway operations*
 - *Poor communications*

- Federal Court rules that CTA has no jurisdiction over dispute resolution

Opportunities for railways and communities to make progress on partnership solutions



Railway / Community Partnerships

RAILWAY/COMMUNITY PROXIMITY STRATEGIES

Met with FCM and CAMA on several occasions

- *FCM and CAMA are rail friendly*
- *Agreement to work together on Proximity Issues*
- *Prefer voluntary non-regulatory approach*
- *Promote consistent protocols across Canada*

Regular contact with regulatory authorities

- *PCO, TC Policy, CTA, Environment Canada*
- *Ease concerns for regulatory intervention*



Railway / Community Partnerships

RAILWAY/COMMUNITY PROXIMITY ISSUES

STANDARDS

LAND USE / DESIGN

STRATEGIES

COMMUNICATIONS

DISPUTE RESOLUTION

*Steering Committee with Representation
from CN, CPR, VIA and SL*



Railway / Community Partnerships

RAILWAY/COMMUNITY PROXIMITY STRATEGIES

STANDARDS

- *RAC Environment Committee developing industry standards (focus on noise)*
- *Evaluating US regulations and standards*
- *FCM / CAMA to provide input / views*



Railway / Community Partnerships

RAILWAY/COMMUNITY PROXIMITY STRATEGIES

LAND USE / DESIGN

- *Process to identify changes in land use that could result in “proximity” problems*
- *Procedural and design guidelines needed to prevent / mitigate “proximity” issues*
- *RAC developing industry standard using CN model*
- *Consultation with stakeholders: FCM / CAMA input*

Proposed Federal regulations on Access Control



Railway / Community Partnerships

RAILWAY/COMMUNITY PROXIMITY STRATEGIES

COMMUNICATIONS

- *Proactive awareness and education*
- *Develop framework for communities / railways to discuss specific problems, alternatives and negotiate win-win solutions*
- *Build on CPR / FCM “Joint Policy” initiative launched in May/01*
- *Buy-in from railways, communities and provinces*



Railway / Community Partnerships

RAILWAY/COMMUNITY PROXIMITY STRATEGIES

DISPUTE RESOLUTION

- *Mediation of opposing views*
- *Build on CPR / FCM “Local Dispute Resolution” model as industry approach*
- *Evaluate other applicable tools and protocols*
- *Buy-in from railways, communities and provinces*



Railway / Community Partnerships

RAILWAY/COMMUNITY PROXIMITY STRATEGIES

2001 Municipal Survey (by FCM for D2006)

- **Survey of 700 Municipal officials on railway knowledge and attitudes**
- **Communities generally know little about railway operations but want better working relationships:**
 - *84% feel dialogue with railways be encouraged*
 - *69% agree in joint planning / development*
 - *79% agree to support rail safety initiatives in their communities*



Railway / Community Partnerships

RAILWAY/COMMUNITY PROXIMITY STRATEGIES

NEXT STEPS

- Done** • **Develop Terms of Reference**
- Sep/01** • **Engage FCM Committee on National Transportation and CAMA**
 - *FCM / CAMA passed motions Sep/01*
 - *Establish Working framework*
 - *Develop appropriate action plans / MOU*
- Q2/02** • **Launch RAC / FCM protocols under MOU**



Railway / Community Partnerships

RAILWAY/COMMUNITY PROXIMITY STRATEGIES

RAILWAY CHALLENGES

- Industry must commit / supply resources
- Current proximity cases must be carefully managed to avoid regulatory intervention
- Various railway proximity management “styles” must be harmonized



Railway / Community Partnerships

SUMMARY

RAIL INDUSTRY IS KEY COMPONENT OF CANADIAN ECONOMY AND COMMUNITY INTERESTS

PROXIMITY ISSUES AND OTHER CHALLENGES WILL ARISE AS ECONOMIC GROWTH INCREASES

PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN FCM AND RAC PRESENTS EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THESE ISSUES

STAKEHOLDERS MUST ACT QUICKLY AND DILLIGENTLY TO AVOID REGULATORY INTERVENTION



Railway / Community Partnerships

SUMMARY

PARTNERSHIP APPROACHES YIELD:

- Best safety / quality of life strategies
- Most cost effective alternatives
- Sustainable solutions
- Non-regulated approaches

RAILWAYS AND COMMUNITIES MUST CONTINUE TO EXPLORE PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

- *Proximity Issues*
- *Direction 2006*
- *TransCAER*



Railway / Community Partnerships

QUESTIONS ?