

Federation of Canadian Municipalities and the Railway Association of Canada



Presented by Sharon Hartwell
Mayor, Telkwa BC
Member FCM Board of Directors
Vice-Chair FCM Standing Committee Transportation
Co-Chair FCM/RAC Proximity Steering Committee

Background

- Most communities in Canada grew up around the railway tracks
- As population has grown, there have been more conflicts between people and trains
- Both rural and urban municipalities are affected





Common Problems - Proximity

- Noise, vibration, safety, vegetation control
- Crossing congestion
- Urban corridors – grade separation, land banking, prime urban land
- Protect integrity and expansion capacity of rail facilities – intermodal linkages
- Modal neutrality – taxes, full cost accounting

Proximity context

- Result of community, economic growth, 24/7 rail network operations
- Both contribute to the problems – land use planning and development; business expansion, changes in rail operations





Canada Transportation Act

- Canadian Transportation Act was amended June 22, 2007.
- CTA can now hear complaints related to noise and vibration from rail operations.
- CTA will require due diligence by parties to resolve disputes.
- CTA to release Draft Guidelines by the end of October. There will be a 45 day consultation process.
- CTA guidelines to focus on required proximity elements and principles, not standards or thresholds.
- Under legislation CTA must offer mediation - but it is optional for stakeholders.
- CTA Guidelines will endorse the RAC/FCM “dispute resolution” process.



FCM/ RAC Progress To Date:

- RAC/ FCM signed first Memorandum of Understanding in 2003. Renewed in 2007.
- Established steering committee, three working groups, equal representation
- MOU supported by Canadian Association of Municipal Administrators (CAMA)
- Transport Canada and Canadian Transportation Agency sit on Steering Committee and working groups as observers.



Steering Committee Members

- Co-chair Sharon Hartwell, Mayor, Telkwa, BC
- Co-chair John Dalzell, CN
- Municipal gov't reps. –Langley, Pitt Meadows BC, Vancouver, Edmonton, Parkland County AB, Northern Sunrise County AB, Lacombe County AB, Toronto, Moncton, FCM, CAMA
- Rail industry reps. – Class 1s, short lines, passenger, RAC
- Observers- Transport Canada, Canadian Transportation Agency.



Communications Committee

- Purpose: Increase awareness and build understanding by key audiences
- Develops communications plan
- Produced Good Neighbours video; on-going FCM Conference participation; case studies; produces annual progress reports
- Created continually-evolving Internet site www.proximityissues.ca



Guidelines Committee

- Promote the research, consult with stakeholders and encourage implementation of the recommendations in the Guidelines and Best Practices Report.
- Develop a strategy to imbed the guidelines and their interpretations into the curriculum of educational institutions – municipal planning, urban development.



Dispute Resolution Committee

- Purpose: Continue the development and implementation of effective dispute-resolution protocol.
- Test case the “Dispute Resolution Model” through monitoring of Citizen Advisory Panels (CAPS)



Guideline Implementation

- The City of Edmonton is incorporating parts of the Guidelines and Best Practices Report in zoning by-law amendments for developments adjacent to railway right-of-way.
- Transport Canada announced a multi-stake agreement for the Roberts Bank Rail Corridor that includes a clause to undertake best efforts to apply the Guidelines and Best Practices for new developments and rail operations and expansion.



Outreach Efforts

- FCM Conference, May 2007, Calgary
- Canadian Institute of Planners
- CAMA Conference, May 2007, Calgary
- Progress report to FCM Standing Committee on Transportation, September 2007.



Feedback

- Questions