

July 29, 2017

RE: The Illinois Prairie Path not-for-profit corporation opposes the proposed closure of 1.6 mile section of the Aurora Branch of the Illinois Prairie Path between I88 and Eola Road, and the proposed detour to near Eola Road and Diehl Road intersection



To whom it may concern,

The Illinois Prairie Path not-for-profit corporation (IPPc) Board of Directors opposes the proposed closure of 1.6 miles of the Aurora Branch of the Illinois Prairie Path (IPP) and also opposes the proposed detour of this portion of the IPP to the busy Eola Road and the eight-lane intersection at Diehl Road.

The IPPc board of directors has been following the proposal of DuPage County to close the aforementioned section of the Aurora Branch for the past several months. It is claimed by DuPage County that long train waits at the at-grade railroad crossing presents a safety hazard. The proposed detour is to the busy 4-lane Eola Road, the I88 bridge, and the dangerous 8-lane intersection at Diehl Road.

The reason for the closure of this section of Aurora Branch is not supported since the proposed detour also has an at-grade railroad crossing. Therefore, the detour will have the same safety concern. The areas of the proposed detour are high-traffic, dangerous, and costly due to required bridge modifications.

Moreover, we feel there are alternatives that could better address the safety concerns for the Aurora Branch that have not been considered by the County. Clearly, additional analysis is required.

The IPPc board started the Rails to Trails movement and built the IPP. Our role is as an advocate for the trail and trail systems in our region. While we support the County in its ongoing stewardship of the IPP and regional trail systems, we urge the County to scrap the current Aurora Branch closure and the associated detour. Additional dialog and evaluation is needed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E Spande". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Erik Spande

On behalf of the IPPc Board of Directors