



February 11, 2019

**VIA EMAIL**

Ms. Marsha Bartel, Producer

WGN-TV

Email: [mbartel@wgntv.com](mailto:mbartel@wgntv.com)

RE: 19-FOIA-029 BNSF Service Disruption 8/20/2018

Dear Ms. Bartel:

We are in receipt of your request for information pursuant to the Illinois Freedom of Information Act, 5 ILCS 140/1 *et seq.* (“**FOIA**”).

On January 24, 2019, we received your request for:

1. Copies of all records, incident reports, mechanical failure reports, service disruption reports, and operator reports concerning route 59 BNSF line to and from Aurora on August 20, 2018;
2. Any calls and/or reports to local, state or federal law enforcement on that day. Include any still and/or video images from the service disruption; and
3. Provide the names and operators on the above-mentioned route. Including any and all incidents where operators have been suspended, disciplined or fired over the past two years

(“**Request**”).

I sent you an email on January 29 seeking clarification of what you meant by “route 59 BNSF line/to from Aurora” and to explain that as written, that portion of your Request for “copies of all records” was overly broad as it contemplated retrieving a huge amount of records ultimately unrelated to the information you were seeking. We asked if you would consider narrowing this portion of your Request to specific records or to records pertaining to a specific topic or event. You responded to my email the same day clarifying the route as Chicago Union Station to / from Aurora and you expressed your surprise to learn that there would be so many calls and reports for one line on one day to be considered overly broad.

On January 31, I called you to discuss your Request. You clarified that you were only seeking those records pertaining to the August 20, 2018, service disruptions on the BNSF line. I followed-up with an email to you summarizing our conversation.

In response to your Request, Metra’s Transportation, Mechanical and Police Departments are providing you with the following records / information pertaining to BNSF service disruptions on August 20, 2018:

1. A Train Operations Performance System Daily Incident Detail Report with code ledger, a Mechanical Delays Follow-up Report, and a Metra Alert Email Notification;
2. After performing a diligent search of Metra’s records, we have been unable to locate any records responsive to your Request concerning any calls and / or reports to local, state or

federal law enforcement on that day. The Metra Police Department (“MPD”) advises that no calls or reports were generated concerning BNSF operations.

As for any still and / or video images from the BNSF service disruptions, Metra’s Mechanical Department informs us that the DVRs in the trains record over video every 30-days, therefore no still or video images exist; and

3. The BNSF train line is owned, maintained and dispatched by the BNSF. We contacted the BNSF to inquire if it would provide us with any records including the names and operators on the above-mentioned route, including any and all incidents where operators have been suspended, disciplined or fired over the past two years. To date we have not received a response from the BNSF, however; in our previous communications with the BNSF regarding the release of such records it declined to do so.

If we can be of further assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



Kathleen E. Haton  
Freedom of Information Officer  
[FOIA@metrarr.com](mailto:FOIA@metrarr.com)

Attachments