

Ronald M. Serpico
MAYOR



Village of Melrose Park



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September 14, 2026

Dear. Mr. Lundy,

On behalf of the Village of Melrose Park, I am writing to express our opposition to the proposed "O'Hare Flyer," a high-speed passenger rail service currently in preliminary planning stages. The project is intended for high-speed trains to cross 1st Avenue, 5th Avenue, and George Street every few minutes, with no grade-separation plans proposed at this time.

Our commercial and industrial districts, which form the economic backbone of Melrose Park, would be directly and substantially affected by this increased rail traffic. These areas rely heavily on predictable traffic flow, reliable access for logistics operations, and consistent travel times for workers. The O'Hare Flyer's use of existing tracks and its likelihood of increasing crossing delays at at-grade intersections threaten to disrupt freight movement, impede delivery schedules, and interfere with the operations of manufacturers, distributors, and other businesses that depend on timely shipments.

Prolonged crossing closures at 1st Avenue, 5th Avenue, and George Street would also create congestion at key industrial access points. This congestion could complicate truck routing, limit roadway capacity, and increase transportation costs for local employers. This congestion will also affect our residents travelling through town.

Without comprehensive studies evaluating these impacts, and without any detailed proposed mitigation measures, Melrose Park's diverse business community cannot plan or prepare for such disruptions. Yet, affected municipalities have not been provided with sufficient information or complete impact analyses related to traffic, public safety, emergency response, noise, vibration, or infrastructure demands.

Until comprehensive studies are completed, shared publicly, and mitigation measures are thoroughly evaluated and approved by the appropriate federal and state agencies, Melrose Park remains opposed to the O'Hare Flyer project in its current form.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We remain committed to collaboration and transparency in any transportation initiative that affects our region.

Sincerely,

Mayor Ron Serpico
Village of Melrose Park

CC: Senators Don Harmon, Kimberly Lightford
Representatives Norma Hernandez, Emanuel 'Chris' Welch
River Forest Village President Cathy Adduci