

Islington Creek Neighborhood Unresolved Issues with CSX

Committee Report on Noise, Fumes and Unsightly Rail Cars from
Portsmouth Yard Operations

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Citywide Neighborhood Committee
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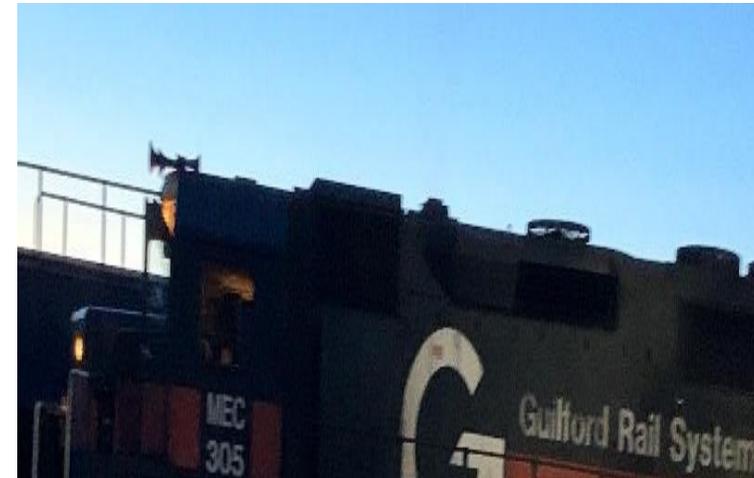
Issues

1. Late night/early morning train operations.
2. Long Hours of Idling
3. Long-term storage of SubCom's (Newington) railway cars

Note the ancient diesels – 50-80 years old



Graffiti



Islington Creek Neighborhood Pushes Back

- Islington Creek (**IC**) residents have complained to Pan Am for years and brought the issue to the City Council.
 - Not much was accomplished – federal rail laws supersede!
- Surface Transportation Board Docket No. FD 36472 on the merger of CSX with Pan Am and numerous small rail companies
 - 4 Islington IC residents filed 2 public comments and one testified at a zoom hearing in January 2022
 - CSX president promised action and the STB chair assured positive action
 - ALL WITHOUT SUCCESS
- 6 **IC** residents filed a formal complaint letter on October 29, 2023

50 residents on our informational mailing list

A note about the filing process



- “The Surface Transportation Board is an independent federal agency that is charged with the economic regulation of various modes of surface transportation, primarily freight rail.” They also address community issues
- Dockets, parties of record, testimony and comments on the record, public hearings, distribution requirements

Seeking to change train operations in populated areas

**Recent Development Projects along the Pan Am Rail Corridor
Portsmouth, NH**

17 - Route 1 Bypass Brewery

1 - 145 Maplewood Ave.

2 - AC / Hotel

3 - 53 Green Street Project

4 - Market Street Roundabout

16 - West End Yards Project

5 - 299 Vaughan Street

15 - Cate Street Project

6 - Russell Street Project

14 - 105 Bartlett Street Project

7 - 165 Deer Street

13 - Langdon Street Project

12 - Brewster Street Project

11 - Foundry Place Garage

10 - 151 Hill Street

9 - 159 Deer Street

8 - 161 Deer Street

Prepared by the city planning department in February 2022

Frequency of Incidents

Monday, 10/23/23 - Early morning idling for 2+ hours with two engines next to the Rock Street playground. The crew was nowhere to be seen. "Called the CSX Ops line politely about the 2-3 hours of the two engines at the playground idling at that moment. Ops person replied brusquely." "They're very often extremely annoyed, as if we bother them with this when they're working. Yet that is the line we're supposed to call."

Friday, 10/20/23 - 4-5 hours of idling at night, dinner time onwards.

Monday, 10/16/23 - Train arrived at 5:10 AM and has been idling for over 4+hours.

Tuesday, 10/10/23 - Early AM around 7am until noon - idling, waiting for crew.

Friday, 9/1/23 - AM the train was idling for hours, which occurred many times throughout this week.

Tuesday, 8/22/23 - 7:10AM the train sat at the Foundry Garage for nearly two hours idling/billowing diesel smoke requiring residents to close windows.

Monday, 8/21/23 – The train returned at 1:49 AM with the switching and horns, then again at 4:40 AM. The train returned at 7:30 AM to idle for 2 hours before it left to service customers.

And many more.

No change in operations in spite of numerous interactions

Planned Next Steps

- Wait for the STB to reply
 - STB has a full agenda (5-6 open dockets, dozens of filed comments since October 29th)
 - Formal letter or contact by CSX possible
- Direct contact to STB by Senator Shaheen or Congressman Pappas after yearend – “Why have you not replied yet?”
- Seek a formal meeting with CSX via intervention from Senator Shaheen’s office

