



JOINT STATEMENT FROM THE VILLAGES OF GLENVIEW AND NORTHBROOK

July 6, 2012 – This afternoon, a representative of the Federal Railroad Administration evaluated the integrity of the temporary bridge erected by Union Pacific Railroad, following the July 4 train derailment and collapse of the viaduct over Shermer Road between Holste and Willow roads on the Glenview-Northbrook border. The FRA representative confirmed the temporary bridge is structurally sound.

The independent inspection by the FRA was one of the main requests made by the Villages of Glenview and Northbrook at a meeting Friday morning that included officials of the Villages of Glenview and Northbrook and area state and federal legislators with representatives of Union Pacific Railroad, the Federal Railroad Administration and Illinois Department of Transportation.

“We are pleased that UP and the FRA moved swiftly to address this public safety issue,” Glenview Village President Kerry Cummings said. “We must not forget that two Glenview residents died July 4, and that two previous derailments occurred at the Shermer Road viaduct – in 2009 and 1974. Insuring the temporary structure’s integrity was of the utmost importance, as will be the permanent viaduct installed to replace the structure that collapsed.”

In a letter that will be sent to UP, the Villages will memorialize a series of requests for information and documents, including inspection reports, related both to the safety of the temporary rail bed embankment and the permanent replacement viaduct that UP estimated would be installed in about two months.

The communities also asked UP representatives to appear at a community meeting in Glenview on July 16 to explain the circumstances of the derailment, the safety history of the viaduct and to provide detailed information and schedules regarding construction of the replacement viaduct.

State Representative Elaine Nekritz helped facilitate the meeting Friday morning, which also included representatives of U.S. Senators Dick Durbin and Mark Kirk; U.S. Congressman Robert Dold; state Senators Jeff Schoenberg and Susan Garrett; and state Representative Daniel Biss.