CREATE Program
Chicago Region Environmental and Transportation Efficiency (CREATE) Program

Overview

April 2019
What is CREATE?

A $4.6 billion Public-Private Partnership (PPP) designed to improve transportation flow through Chicago focusing on:

- Increased capacity, speed and reliability for freight train traffic
- Separation of freight and commuter trains at 6 key junctions
- Elimination of 25 road/rail grade crossings (grade separations)

CREATE is a cooperative project involving:

- US Department of Transportation (FHWA & FRA)
- Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT)
- Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT)
- Cook County
- 6 major North American freight railroads and 2 switching railroads
- 2 passenger railroads (Amtrak and Metra)
CREATE Partners

Illinois Department of Transportation

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN RAILROADS

CDOT

CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

SEAL OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

BUILDING AMERICA

UNION PACIFIC

CSX

How tomorrow moves

BNSF RAILWAY

Metra

NS

NORFOLK SOUTHERN

AMTRAK

INDIANA HARBOR BELT

CP

CN

THE RAILWAY COMPANY, CHICAGO
Why CREATE?

• Freight rail trade (by value) within Chicago will more than double from 2012 to 2045*
• Passenger, freight and motorist delays are experienced daily on the current system
• The region must improve freight movement and mitigate negative impacts
• Freight movements in Chicago are a NATIONAL and INTERNATIONAL issue, not just a regional one

"Global trade follows the path of least resistance. It will go where there are the fewest impediments.” -UPS

*Source: US DOT Freight Analysis Framework 4.0
The U.S. Rail Network Depends on Chicago

- 25 percent of all U.S. rail traffic touches Chicago
- 46 percent of all intermodal units in the U.S. touch Chicago
- 54 percent of intermodal units to/from the ports of Seattle/Tacoma touch Chicago
- 26 percent of intermodal units to/from Los Angeles/Long Beach touch Chicago

Source: 2006 Waybill Sample, based on traffic analysis by ALK Assoc.
CREATE: Keeping the Nation’s Economy Moving

- Coal: 3.1 M carloads, $8 billion
- Produce & Food: 0.9 M carloads, $42 billion
- Consumer Products: 0.4 M carloads, $521 billion
- Grain: 1.1 M carloads, $18 billion
- Petroleum: 0.6 M carloads, $25 billion
- Building Materials: 0.6 M carloads, $16 billion
- Autos: 0.2 M carloads, $140 billion

About 25% of all freight trains and 50% of all intermodal trains in the nation pass through metropolitan Chicago*

11.5 M carloads, $1.4 trillion

*According to the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP)
Map not intended to be comprehensive. Only select flows displayed.
CREATE Program – 70 Projects

• 25 road/rail grade separations
• 6 passenger/freight rail grade separations
• Railroad projects to improve rail infrastructure and upgrade technologies
• Viaduct improvement program
• Grade crossing safety enhancements
• Rail operations and visibility improvements
Four Corridors

- Passenger Corridors
- East-West Corridor
- Beltway Corridor
- Western Ave. Corridor
Project Status

- Completed projects: 29
- Projects under construction (Phase III): 6
- Projects in final design (Phase II): 5
- Projects in environmental review (Phase I): 11
- Remaining projects: 19
70 CREATE Projects ➔ 30-Year Benefits of $31.5 Billion

**Rail Benefits**
- **Economic Growth**
  Chicago can accommodate growth in passenger and freight trains
- **Fewer Delays**
  Reduced delay to passenger and freight trains
- **Cost Savings**
  Reduced shipping costs may be passed on to consumers

**Increased Safety**
Elimination of rail–roadway conflicts at 25 grade crossing sites

**Roadway Benefits**
- **Fewer Delays**
  Reduced delay to vehicles from eliminating 25 grade crossings
- **Sustainability**
  Reduced fuel consumption and emissions
- **Reduced Congestion**
  Fewer trucks on the roadways

*CREATE*  
KEEPING THE GO IN CHICAGO
INFRA Grant Award – 75th St. CIP

The $132 million federal INFRA funding closes the gap and pushes this next phase of the project toward the finish line.

The total $474 million funds design of the entire 75th St. CIP, construction of two 75th St. CIP projects and construction of the Argo BRC Connection.

Forest Hill Junction (P3)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CREATE Partners</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>$337M</td>
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<tr>
<td>INFRA</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>$132M</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Federal</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>$5M</td>
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</table>
INFRA Grant Award – 75th St. CIP

75th St. CIP
(design and partial construction)

Argo Connections
(construction)
The CREATE partners will seek future funding to finish construction of P2 and EW2.
Transportation and Environmental Benefits

• Congestion reduction
• Air quality and energy improvements
• Viaduct improvement program
• Community mobility improvements
  • Street, sidewalk and bus improvements
Community Benefits

• **Education**
  o Support STEM programs in local schools

• **Local Jobs**
  o Fund On-the-Job Training ($15/hour) through Dawson Technical Institute and the IDOT Highway Construction Careers Training Program (HCCTP)

• **Contracting**
  o Promote Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) contracting opportunities through Get On Board

![Image of people gathered around a display board]
CREATE Project Highlights
Union Pacific Third Mainline (B2)
Melrose Park

60 freight trains & 59 Union Pacific Metra trains affected

- Constructed 3.5-mile third main track on UP
- Constructed railroad bridge over Addison Creek
- Constructed flyover connection from the Indiana Harbor Belt to the UP
- Control points reconfigured
- Upgraded track between UP and IHB
- Metra’s Berkeley and Bellwood passenger stations improved; pedestrian underpasses constructed
- Completed 2013

Before

After
Englewood Flyover (P1)
Chicago

Improvements benefit Metra, NS and Amtrak

• Removed conflict point between commuter, passenger and freight trains
• Alleviated Amtrak’s most severe delay point in the Midwest
• Completed 2014

Reduced rail/rail conflicts
Englewood Flyover (P1)

South looking North

Before 2011

After 2014
71st Street Grade Separation (GS14) Bridgeview

- Grade separation of 71st Street and the IHB/CSX tracks just west of Harlem Avenue
- Road underpass
- Completed 2013

Eliminated road/rail conflict
71st Street Grade Separation (GS14)
Bridgeview

Before 2011

After 2013
Viaduct Improvement Program
Chicago

- Locations in the City of Chicago
- Improved roadways, sidewalks and drainage under railroad viaducts
- Enhanced safety and security for motorists, pedestrians and bicyclists
- 37 locations completed in 2006
- 14 locations completed in 2012 (USDOT TIGER funding, $5 million)
- 11 completed between 2015 and 2016 (State of Illinois funding)
Viaduct Improvement Program
Chicago

Example: 1530 S Racine Avenue

Before

After

Example: 1530 S Loomis Street

Before

After
CREATE Next Steps

- Continue to leverage all funding opportunities
- Execute 75th St. CIP grant and other grant funded projects

• Complete:
  - Remaining rail corridor projects
  - Remaining passenger-freight rail flyover projects
  - Remaining grade separation projects
Stay in Touch!

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