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

Overview

March 2020
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)
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
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.
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.
Top Global Container Ports, 2014

Source: Chicago – Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning Freight Snapshot; American Association of Port Authorities, 2014
Top U.S. Container Ports, 2014

Source: Chicago – Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning Freight Snapshot; American Association of Port Authorities, 2014
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: 30
- Projects under construction (Phase III): 4
- Projects in final design (Phase II): 8
- Projects in environmental review (Phase I): 9
- Remaining projects: 19
Project Status Summary

CREATE Program, Overall Project Status Summary

Revised 22-Aug-2019

- Project Initiation Pending Funding Availability
- Projects in Phase I - Environmental + PE
- Projects in Phase II - Final Design (PS&E)
- Projects in Phase III - Construction
- Projects Completed

Number of Projects

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
Recent Grant Awards

• **75th Street Corridor Improvement Project (P3, GS19, EW2, P2)**  
  Federal Highway Administration INFRA Grant ($132 M)  
  June 2018

• **Dolton Junction Interlocking (WA11)**  
  Invest in Cook Grant ($600,000)  
  July 2018

• **Dolton Junction Interlocking (WA11)**  
  Federal Railroad Administration CRISI Grant ($49 M)  
  June 2019

• **95th Street and Union Pacific Grade Separation (GS21a)**  
  Invest in Cook Grant ($500,000)  
  July 2019
2018 INFRA Grant Award – 75th St. CIP

The $132 million federal INFRA Grant closed a funding gap to push the next phase of this project toward the finish line.

A total of $474 million in funding will design the entire 75th St. CIP (P3, GS19, P2, EW2), construct two 75th St. CIP projects (P3, GS19) and construct the Argo Connections Project (B9).
Support for this project has come from across the nation:

- Ford Motor Company
- UPS
- Caterpillar
- Ingredion
- Walgreens
- Wisconsin Electric Power Company (WEC Group)
- Illinois Corn Growers Association
- Illinois Petroleum Council
- Midwest Soybean Association
- Indiana Chamber of Commerce
- Ohio Chamber of Commerce
- Indiana Dept. of Transportation
- Iowa Dept. of Transportation
- Kansas Dept. of Transportation
- Michigan Dept. of Transportation
- Minnesota Dept. of Transportation
- Wisconsin Dept. of Transportation
- Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission
- Southwest Michigan Planning Commission

The *Entire Bipartisan Illinois Congressional Delegation*
2018 INFRA Grant Award – 75th St. CIP

75th St. CIP
(design and partial construction)

Argo Connections
(construction)
Argo Connections (B9) Summit

Improvements benefit Amtrak, BRC, CN, CSX, IHB, Metra railroads

- Constructing a new double track connection and crossovers between the BRC and IHB/CSX line at Archer Avenue and 63rd Street in Summit, IL.
- Upgrading mainline crossovers to accommodate higher speeds, from 10 mph to 25 mph
- Improving Argo Yard
- Groundbreaking April 2019

B9 Groundbreaking – April 26, 2019
The CREATE partners will seek future funding to finish construction of P2 and EW2.
75th St. CIP - Transportation & Environmental Benefits

- Congestion reduction
- Air quality and energy improvements
- Viaduct improvement program
- Community mobility improvements
  - Street, sidewalk and bus stop improvements
75th St. CIP - Community Benefits

• **Education**
  - Support education programs in local schools

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

• **Contracting**
  - Promote Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) contracting opportunities through business to business networking sessions
75th St. CIP – “Get On Board” Business Opportunity Events

- Business-to-business networking events provide small businesses the opportunity to:
  - Network with railroad industry prime contractors
  - Meet procurement experts from the railroads and learn how to become a certified railroad contractor
  - Learn about bid opportunities related to CREATE

- January 24, 2019 Event
  - 34 exhibitors
  - 100+ participants
  - 62 percent DBE attendance
Additional CREATE Project Highlights
Canadian Pacific Crossover Upgrades (B1)  
Franklin Park

Improvements benefit Canadian Pacific and Metra

• Installing five crossovers and associated signaling on the Metra tracks serving the Metra Milwaukee District West Line and Canadian Pacific

• Reduces the number of freight trains within Bensenville Yard, diminishing delays at nearby at-grade crossings and Metra trains

• Under construction 2019

Photo taken during B1 construction
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
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
Eliminated the at-grade crossings of the two Norfolk Southern main tracks at 130th Street and Torrence Avenue

Eliminated conflict between railroad and access to Ford Plant

Road underpass constructed

Completed 2015
130th Street & Torrence Avenue (GS15a)
Chicago

Before 2011

After 2015

Source: BNSF and NS
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 Bid Advertisements/RFPs

• Sign-up at createprogram.org/business.htm

Join Our CREATE Contractor/Supplier List

Sign up to receive email notification when a new bid solicitation is placed on the Doing Business with CREATE webpage. Be sure to select the procurement list.

E-mail Signup [Form]

• Receive each partner’s CREATE Bid Advertisements

INVITATION TO BID & PROFESSIONAL SERVICES ADVERTISEMENTS

Please note the following CREATE opportunities:

BID ADVERTISEMENT
B9-BOCT-TXB-002-Z-BD

An invitation to bid on the CREATE B9, B&O/CSXT Track, Earthwork, Grading, and Bridge project in Summit, Bridgeview, and Bedford Park, Illinois has been posted. A mandatory pre-bid
CREATE Funding Commitments

The CREATE Program has received funding commitments totaling $1.6 billion so far, from a variety of public and private sources.

Federal: $647 million
State: $461 million*
Railroads: $375 million
Local Governments: $150 million

An estimated $3 billion remains needed to complete the full Program of projects.

* These figures do not reflect the $400M allocated to the CREATE Program and $118M for the 63rd Street and Harlem Avenue Grade Separation (GS1) in the 2019 Rebuild Illinois Capital Program.
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!

E-mail: info@createprogram.org
Website: www.createprogram.org
Like us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/CREATEP ProgramChicago
Find us on YouTube
CREATEP ProgramChicago