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PRESS RELEASE

CREATE Partners Celebrate Completion of Forest Hill Flyover, the Largest Project in Program History

Bold investment delivers safety, reliability, and national supply chain dividends through critical public-private partnership

CHICAGO — November 14, 2025 — The Chicago Region Environmental and Transportation Efficiency (CREATE) Program and its partners today marked the operational completion of the Forest Hill Flyover (P3), a \$380 million public-private partnership project led by CSX that eliminates one of the Chicago region's most congested rail bottlenecks. The milestone represents the 36th of 70 CREATE projects completed, reinforcing the Program's role as a national model for modernizing infrastructure, improved mobility, and stronger supply chains.

Funded through a nearly \$120 million federal Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant awarded in 2018 and \$260 million in state, local and private investment from the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways (DoTH), Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT) and six Class I railroads represented by the Association of American Railroads (AAR), the project illustrates how federal funding can attract local and private partners to deliver transformative infrastructure. The CREATE Program reflects long-standing national support for investment in transportation and economic growth.

"This project shows what is possible through the power of partnership," said Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle. "Working together, the railroads along with the federal, state and local governments have tackled one of the worst rail bottlenecks in the country. This will also support business expansion and the growth of good jobs in Cook County and the entire nation."

Securing America's Supply Chain

The Forest Hill Flyover, a cornerstone of the 75th Street Corridor Improvement Project (CIP), eliminates a long-standing chokepoint where CSX, Norfolk Southern, the Belt Railway Company of Chicago (BRC) and Metra's SouthWest Service lines intersect. By separating freight and commuter movements, the project removes daily conflicts between 35 freight trains and 30 commuter trains, improving reliability for both.

"The completion of the Forest Hill Flyover represents far more than new infrastructure – it's a powerful step toward greater efficiency, enhanced network reliability, and an improved experience for the customers and communities we serve," said Steve Angel, president and chief executive officer of CSX. "Chicago is one of the nation's most critical rail hubs, and the CREATE program showcases how smart investment and collaboration can deliver lasting value for the entire transportation system."

**ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT
OF TRANSPORTATION**

**CHICAGO DEPARTMENT
OF TRANSPORTATION**

**ASSOCIATION OF
AMERICAN RAILROADS**

**COOK COUNTY DEPARTMENT
OF TRANSPORTATION AND HIGHWAYS**



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This improvement strengthens one of the nation's most critical freight connections, located in the Chicago region, through which nearly one in four U.S. freight trains pass. By improving fluidity and reducing congestion, the Forest Hill Flyover helps ensure that goods and materials move more efficiently across the country.

The scale of the Forest Hill Flyover reflects its significance to both our regional and national rail network. Crews poured 8,356 cubic yards of concrete, installed 23.5 million pounds of structural steel and set 3,421 modular retaining wall pieces. Guided by CSX and coordinated with public partners, the project supported hundreds of skilled workers and generated economic activity across the Chicago region.

“The new flyover and the 75th Street Corridor Improvement Project creates jobs, economic opportunity and improves quality of life in the surrounding neighborhoods and across the region,” said Illinois Transportation Secretary Gia Biagi. “Under the leadership of Gov. JB Pritzker, we’re proud to help deliver this significant accomplishment along with our many partners.”

Delivering Regional and Workforce Benefits

At its core, the CREATE Program strengthens two pillars of national competitiveness: efficient supply chains and a skilled workforce. Ensuring access to career opportunities remains a continuing priority for CREATE Program projects like the Forest Hill Flyover. The Program helps meet that need by engaging local contractors and skilled workers, generating benefits that extend from local businesses to the broader economy.

To date, CREATE projects have delivered 154 community mobility improvements, including new sidewalks, safer crosswalks and upgraded bus stops, ensuring residents experience the benefits of investment firsthand.

“The completion of the Forest Hill Flyover is an important milestone for the CREATE Program and for Chicago’s South Side. This project will not only keep trains moving efficiently but also make travel safer and reduce congestion for the residents who live in and move through these neighborhoods,” said Acting CDOT Commissioner Craig Turner, PE, PLS. “CDOT is proud to be a partner in the CREATE Program, which demonstrates what’s possible when federal, state, local, and private partners work together toward shared goals.”

Linked Progress: 71st Street Grade Separation (GS19)

The Forest Hill Flyover also advances momentum for the broader 75th Street CIP. Construction of the 71st Street Grade Separation (GS19) is underway and scheduled for completion in 2027, eliminating another key conflict point between rail and roadway traffic. Together, the projects demonstrate how strategic public–private partnerships are delivering reliable, modern infrastructure that enhances both local safety and national economic competitiveness.



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About the CREATE Program

The **Chicago Region Environmental and Transportation Efficiency (CREATE) Program** is a first-of-its-kind partnership between the U.S. Department of Transportation, the State of Illinois, City of Chicago, Cook County, Metra, Amtrak, and the freight railroads. Its mission is to improve the efficiency of the Chicago region's rail network — the nation's busiest — by eliminating passenger and freight conflicts, enhancing safety, and strengthening national supply chain resilience. To date, 36 of 70 planned projects have been completed, with multiple projects under construction and others in design.

For more information, visit www.createprogram.org.

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