

NS Selects Construction Manager for CREATE Project's Pullman Junction Interlocking Improvement (EW3a)

June 13, 2024 - The Chicago Region Environmental And Transportation Efficiency (CREATE) Program partners are pleased to announce NS has selected TranSystems to provide construction management services for the CREATE Program's Pullman Junction Interlocking Improvement Project (EW3-Segment A). TranSystems will soon begin engineering and administrative management services and is expected to continue until construction of this fully funded, \$37 million track and signal project is completed in 2027. The project is located in the vicinity of 9500 South Stony Island Avenue on Chicago's south side and is the recipient of a Federal Railroad Administration CRISI grant award.

"NS looks forward to modernizing this heavily traveled railroad junction where three shortline railroads (BRC, SCIH, and CRL) currently crisscross NS traffic," said Jeff Page, NS Engineer Planning. "We believe the TranSystems team will rise to the occasion to both safely and efficiently progress construction of this complex infrastructure project, while minimizing operational disruption, over the course of an anticipated three-year construction timeline."

The CREATE partners' commitment to creating economic opportunities in the project area is reflected in the 25% Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) participation goal for these professional services, which is 5% over the original 20% commitment. The CREATE partners have made a concerted effort to provide opportunities for new subconsultant teams as reflected with the more than a dozen DBEs who networked with prime engineering consultants during the pre-proposal presentation held at Kennedy-King College in Chicago's Englewood neighborhood.

The TranSystems' team includes four local, Illinois DBE firms:

- The Roderick Group, Inc. dba Ardmore Roderick – Construction Inspection & Survey
- GSG Consultants, Inc. – Environmental Compliance
- Interra, Inc. – Material Testing & Construction Inspection
- Pin Point Precision, LLC – Construction Inspection & Public Outreach

There will be additional, hands-on opportunities for certified graduates of IDOT's Highway Construction Careers Training Program to be mentored by the TranSystems' team as part of this CM selection.

Future, biddable work for the construction segment of this project will include the installation of a 550-foot long sound wall adjacent to a senior living residence as well as minor concrete bridge repairs to the railroad-owned Stony Island Avenue and Woodlawn Avenue viaducts. An RFP for this construction bid work is expected to be issued later in 2024.

There will be additional opportunities for right-of-way acquisition, engineering, construction, and supplier opportunities within the CREATE Program. DBE firms are encouraged to register through the CREATE website for email invitations to respond to bid opportunities for contracted work. All CREATE Program partner procurements will be sent through the CREATE procurement notification email. Notifications are also made through newspapers.

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The CREATE Program is a first-of-its-kind public-private partnership to improve the rail and roadway transportation network within the Chicago region through the completion of 70 interrelated infrastructure projects. The CREATE Program is a partnership that includes the U.S. Department of Transportation, State of Illinois, Cook County, City of Chicago, Metra, Amtrak, the Association of American Railroads along with freight railroads BNSF, Belt Railway of Chicago, Canadian Pacific Kansas City, Canadian National, CSX, Indiana Harbor Belt, Norfolk Southern and Union Pacific. The Program is designed to eliminate freight rail and motor vehicle bottlenecks, boost the economy of northeastern Illinois and improve the overall safety and environment of the region.

To date, 33 projects have been completed out of the 70 that are a part of the CREATE Program.

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