

Grand Crossing

February 2024

SCOPE OF WORK

The purpose of this project is to provide a new direct route for Amtrak trains from New Orleans or Carbondale into Chicago Union Station, and to provide sufficient mainline capacity to accommodate additional Amtrak trains along with freight traffic.

This project includes constructing new mainline capacity between Grand Crossing and Control Point 518 (at Pershing Rd) and all associated signal work, grading work, crossovers and other bridge work. This project also includes a connection from Canadian National to an unused Norfolk Southern bridge in the Grand Crossing Area. Additional work may include shifting rail operations to a new alignment.

BENEFITS

This project will allow the 6 current Amtrak trains serving Champaign, Carbondale and points south to reroute from the CN Lakefront and St. Charles Airline route to the Norfolk Southern Chicago Line. The updated route will eliminate the current configuration required for Amtrak trains to access Chicago Union Station and eliminate the motor vehicle back-up caused at 16th Street near Halsted. This re-route will reduce travel times by approximately 10-15 minutes each way. The project will also increase capacity on a congested section of the Norfolk Southern mainline which currently serves 14 daily Amtrak trains between Chicago and points east. This project will also allow for the space currently occupied by the St. Charles Airline (in Chicago) and the CN mainline tracks (along the Lakefront north of Grand Crossing) to be used to serve future public needs.

Location

From approximately Pershing Road on the NS Chicago Line (Control Point 518) on the north to approximately 117th Street on the CN Chicago Line on the south, via Grand Crossing (where the NS and CN lines cross).

Chicago, IL

Daily Trains Affected

46 Freight Trains (NS)

14 Amtrak Trains – NS Mainline (Michigan Services, Capitol Limited, Lake Shore Limited)

6 Amtrak Trains – CN Mainline (Illini/Saluki, City of New Orleans)

Communities Benefited

Chicago Community Areas:
Avalon Park, Chatham, Englewood, Fuller Park, Grand Boulevard, Greater Grand Crossing, New City, Woodlawn, Douglas, Hyde Park, Kenwood, Oakland, Near South Side, Armour Square, Bridgeport.

Communities served by Amtrak Illini/Saluki through Champaign and Carbondale, IL and City of New Orleans service between Chicago and New Orleans, LA

Cook County

PROJECT STATUS

Phase I NEPA – Preliminary Design	Phase II Final Plans, Specifications and Estimates	Phase III Construction
On hold	Not started	Not started

PROJECT LOCATION MAP

