



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**CREATE Program to announce opportunities for contractors**

*Forum to highlight Westside Gateway rail project*

CHICAGO – The Chicago Region Environmental and Transportation Efficiency (CREATE) Program will host a forum for contractors to learn more about work opportunities tied to its Westside Gateway (WA1) initiative from 9:30 a.m. to noon on Tuesday, Feb. 18, at HIRE360, 2540 S. State St., Chicago.

**TUESDAY, FEB. 18, 2025**

**WHAT: CREATE Program Contractor Forum**

**WHEN: 9:30 a.m. registration, 10 a.m. – noon presentation, 1 p.m. site visit**

**WHERE: HIRE360  
2540 S. State St.  
Chicago, IL 60616\***

*\*Street parking will be available. PPE is required for site tour.*

To register for the forum, please visit: [Westside Gateway](#).

The forum will highlight opportunities related to the Westside Gateway project, which will improve a 1.9-mile-long segment of the Union Pacific rail line along Rockwell Avenue between Fulton Street and 16<sup>th</sup> Street in Chicago. The project entails repairing, replacing or eliminating 16 railroad bridges, many of which are more than 100 years old. Viaducts below the bridges, many of which are also more than a century old, will also be repaired, repainted and, in some cases, raised in height.

Contractors, including certified Disadvantaged Business Enterprises, will have the opportunity to learn more about the Westside Gateway project, upcoming bid opportunities, required prequalifications, railroad supplier diversity and the Illinois Department of Transportation's DBE program. Specific work opportunities to be addressed include structural repair and removal, maintenance of traffic, grading and excavating, civil roadwork, landscaping, and stormwater and sewer repair. Following the presentation, contractors will have the opportunity to participate in a site visit of similar work.

The Westside Gateway (WA1) project is one component of the CREATE Program, 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 \$4.6 billion CREATE Program is a partnership that includes the U.S. Department of Transportation, the state of Illinois, Cook County, the City of Chicago, Metra, Amtrak and the nation's freight railroads. Launched in 2003, CREATE has successfully completed 34 of the 70

projects, enhancing quality of life for Chicago-area residents and improving mobility and accessibility for people using transit, moving freight, driving, walking, and bicycling.

Westside Gateway is funded in part by \$70 million in federal funds via the INFRA grant program, which advances multimodal freight and highway projects of national significance.

For more information about the CREATE Program, please visit [www.createprogram.org](http://www.createprogram.org).

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