



CREATEPROGRAM.ORG



RAIL IN CHICAGO

Chicago is number one in rail. It's also the number one bottleneck in the U.S. rail network.

Each day, nearly 500 freight trains — with over 37,000 railcars — and 760 passenger trains pass through the region, moving the goods and people that power the national economy. Chicago has remained the busiest rail hub in the nation with 25% of U.S. freight rail traffic and 46% of all intermodal traffic beginning, ending, or traveling through the city.

A PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP: CREATE

The Chicago Region Environmental & Transportation Efficiency (CREATE) Program is a first-of its kind public-private partnership to improve the efficiency of the region's freight and passenger rail operations while enhancing the quality of life for Chicago-area residents. Launched in 2003, the \$4.4 billion plan involves 70 critical rail and highway infrastructure improvement projects in northeastern Illinois.

When completed, CREATE will allow the region to handle up to 50,000 additional freight trains annually by 2051, reduce delays for Amtrak and Metra customers, improve safety, and reduce congestion for local pedestrians and drivers.



RAIL & ROADWAY BENEFITS

70 CREATE projects will achieve \$31.5 billion in economic benefits over the next 30 years.



ECONOMIC GROWTH

Chicago can accommodate growth in passenger and freight trains.



FEWER DELAYS

Reduced delays for commuters due 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 crossings.



REDUCED CONGESTION

Fewer trucks on the roadways.



SUSTAINABILITY

Reduced fuel consumption and emissions.

75TH STREET CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (CIP)

In June 2018, the U.S. Department of Transportation awarded \$132 million to CREATE's largest project – the 75th Street CIP – to address one of the most congested points in Chicago and the national rail network. The 75th Street CIP grant award consists of five individual projects, which will:

- Create faster, more reliable service for Metra and Amtrak riders.
- Eliminate 3.5 hours of daily road “closures” due to gates down.
- Reduce emissions due to train idling.

Construction of the first project in the 75th Street Corridor, known as B9 – Argo Connection, is scheduled to begin next year. This project will build additional track and signals allowing for increased train speeds. The design and construction of the other four projects will follow. The following public and private partners are contributing to the 75th Street CIP projects:

- **U.S. DOT** – \$132 million.
- **Freight railroads (BNSF, Canadian Pacific, Canadian National, CSX, Norfolk Southern, Union Pacific)** – \$116 million.
- **Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT)** – \$111 million.
- **Cook County** – \$78 million.
- **Metra** – \$23 million.
- **Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT)** – \$9 million.
- **Amtrak** – \$5 million.
- **Total Cost:** \$474 million.

INFRA PROJECTS & STAGES



Construct Argo track connections (B9)



Design & Construct a Road/Rail Grade Separation at 71st Street (GS19)



Design & Construct a Freight Rail/Rail Flyover (P3)



Design a Commuter/Freight Rail Flyover (P2)



Design to realign freight tracks and add a commuter track (EW3)





Note: Does not include Viaduct Improvement Program locations, Safety Improvement Program or Common Operational Picture.