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## **75<sup>th</sup> St. CIP Community Advisory Group - Phases II and III Meeting #3 Meeting Summary July 13, 2020**

### **Summary:**

The third Community Advisory Group (CAG) meeting for Phases II and III of the 75<sup>th</sup> Street Corridor Improvement Project (75<sup>th</sup> St. CIP) was held Monday, July 13, 2020 through a Zoom webinar with a conference call option. A total of 21 CAG members RSVPed to attend the meeting. The meeting was scheduled to run from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. In total, thirty people attended: nine were CAG members and 21 were project team members. Attendees' names and affiliation are listed on page six. Two individuals submitted comments during the meeting in the chat box for the project team to answer.

Jakita Trotter, IDOT, began the meeting by thanking participants for joining the webinar and explained how the format would work with attendees remaining muted, using the chat for questions, and reaching out to Nick Arquette, Metro Strategies, for technical assistance, if needed. Ms. Trotter facilitated project team introduction and then asked CAG members to introduce their name and organization through the chat function. Ms. Trotter then discussed the CAG member overview and expectations followed by an overview of the projects that make up the 75<sup>th</sup> St. CIP.

Brett Guarino, CSX, presented updates for the design work continuing for the 71<sup>st</sup> Street Grade Separation (GS19) and the Forest Hill Flyover (P3), including soliciting the CAG's input on treatment options and explaining timing for construction. Ms. Guarino also stated the CREATE partners have continued to hold business to business networking events for contracting opportunities, described the process that had been used to conduct networking remotely and noted an event that UP hosted attracted over 100 participants. Ms. Guarino reminded CAG members that updates and contracting opportunities are sent to the CAG to share with businesses in the community who may be interested in the work.

Tanya Cohn, Metra, presented updates on Metra's Rock Island Connector (P2) and shared that Metra had selected Ardmore Roderick to be the prime contractor for the bridge work associated with EW2. Ms. Cohn added that there will be additional opportunities for right-of-way acquisition, engineering, construction and supplier opportunities on the 75<sup>th</sup> St. CIP.

Jason Biernat, CDOT, introduced the topic of community benefits associated with the project and shared a status update on the community mobility improvements associated with the 71<sup>st</sup> Street Grade Separation (GS19) and the Forest Hill Flyover (P3). Sis Killen, Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways, provided the workforce update and education updates.

Samuel Tuck III, IDOT, provided the next steps for the project including community meetings in August 2020, temporary construction update timing and the next Get On Board event anticipated for 2021. Mr. Tuck also noted that the project is a long-term project, and that there will still be at least four more years before the Forest Hill Flyover and 71<sup>st</sup> Street Grade Separation are completed.

Lilliane Webb, Metro Strategies, facilitated the question and answer portion of the meeting and noted that CAG members also have an option to submit questions and comments through [info@75thcip.org](mailto:info@75thcip.org). Ms. Webb invited CAG members on the phone to introduce themselves and ask any questions before addressing comments written by CAG members in the webinar chat box. No names or questions were heard from individuals joining by phone during the meeting. The questions that were written in the chat then discussed verbally are described below. Ms. Webb gave attendees an additional opportunity to openly speak if they had comments or questions before closing the meeting. No questions or comments were provided by CAG members at that time and the meeting was adjourned.

### **Specific Discussion Topics and Associated Follow-Up:**

1. Shaka Rawls, Leo High School, asked in the chat “Can we please see the possibilities of overpass structures?” Mr. Rawls asked multiple questions, so was given the floor to ask his questions verbally. Mr. Rawls asked linearly if they could see the renderings and proposed visual impact treatments for the P3/GS19 project. Mr. Rawls noted that there are significant portions of green space included in the renderings, but the options shown on the visual impacts slides are primarily concrete treatment. Mr. Rawls asked if those were the only two options or if there were more. Sam Tuck, IDOT, referenced the slide showing renderings for the 71<sup>st</sup> Street Grade Separation (which was then displayed on the webinar screen) and noted that the options are still being assessed to confirm what treatment options are federally reimbursable. Mr. Tuck added the project team will be able to provide more information at further CAG meetings. Mr. Rawls stated that it makes a big difference when the two green space images are juxtaposed.

Mr. Rawls placed this question in the chat: “Can we please have a list of projects that the 200K went to in local elementary school? Is that public info? Are there other schools that you are willing to work with, we never received an invite here at Leo. If it is because we are private just let me know.” Mr. Rawls stated verbally that Leo High School is a private high school, but he would like to have more involvement with the project. Mr. Rawls stated he would like individuals from the project come to the school to talk with his students, citing Leo students are 4-5 years out from being in the professional market and that it would be good for students to learn about the projects and initiatives happening in their backyard.

Mr. Tuck asked Mr. Rawls to reach out to Lilliane Webb, Metro Strategies, to get further information on how to get individuals to present to students. Ms. Webb added the education program was initially geared towards public schools and public programming opportunities. The goal was to start the program with publicly accessible or free to the public programs such as the Museum of Science and

Industry's Summer Brain Games. Ms. Webb stated that as the project team gains more experience conducting partnerships with schools, there will be opportunities to grow and streamline the program and work with other schools in the project area, including Leo High School. Mr. Rawls placed his contact information in the webinar chat for follow up: "Thank you [srawls@LeoHighSchool.org](mailto:srawls@LeoHighSchool.org). I am here and Leo is community driven! Let's work!"

2. Minister Americia Huckabee, Beacon Light Missionary Baptist Church, placed the following into the chat: "Good morning all, my name is Minister Americia Huckabee from the Beacon Light Baptist Church, I'm new to the call, and would like more information about when CAG began and what communities on the Rock Island line will be impacted by the construction." Ms. Huckabee added that she spoke with a project team representative last week, but she wanted to learn a little bit more about how the Community Advisory Group came to be and how the communities will be affected by the Rock Island line. Ms. Huckabee added specifically that she is interested in how the community can be more involved in the workforce and how they can benefit from employment opportunities. Additionally, Ms. Huckabee stated she knows a business owner and wants to know how they can get involved in the project.

Michael Kowalczyk, FHWA, added the following into the chat: "All great questions Minister. Here is the 2014 Environmental Document on the project. Appendix C11 discusses previous CAG meetings during Phase I of the project. [http://75thcip.org/information\\_center/eis](http://75thcip.org/information_center/eis)"

Jakita Trotter, IDOT, stated the Community Advisory Group was established 2011 in Phase I of the project. Those Phase I CAG meetings were instrumental to the project team to incorporate community benefits as part of the project, which include project area viaduct improvements. Ms. Trotter noted that the CAG is very important, and the project team wants more involvement from our CAG members and help get the word out about the project to other community members interested in the project. Ms. Trotter strongly encouraged Ms. Huckabee to visit the 75<sup>th</sup> St. CIP project website, as it has information on contracting bids or employment opportunities and a lot of other project information. Additionally, CAG members are the first to hear news of contracting opportunities. Ms. Trotter stated that the project team is here to listen to CAG member input and looks forward to having Ms. Huckabee at future meetings.

Ms. Trotter added that the project team plans to have community meetings within the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> wards in August, and that CAG members are a part of that process. Ms. Huckabee asked if there will be a community meeting held in the 21<sup>st</sup> Ward as well. The community meetings will not be solely for residents only in Alderman Curtis' or Alderman Moore's wards, but open to all interested community residents. Ms. Webb stated the project team will send follow-up information for the Rock Island Connection community impacts she requested.

Ms. Webb stated that for jobs and workforce opportunities, the program utilizes the Highway Construction Careers Training Program (HCCTP). Ms. Webb stated that the project team has a handout on the website for the HCCTP and a handout that shows

where to go and how to go for jobs for each of the CREATE railroad partners. Under normal circumstances, the project team would provide the hard copies of the handouts and the director of the training program would be present with more information, but the information can also be accessed on the website. COVID-19 has caused a delay in the timing of HCCTP, but the project team will get information to the CAG members as soon as the next training session is available.

Mr. Tuck continued the response by adding information about how to help businesses get involved with project contracting opportunities. Mr. Tuck strongly encouraged Ms. Huckabee to visit the 75<sup>th</sup> St. CIP website, as it outlines the types of jobs that are available to contractors. Mr. Tuck noted the program requires the contractors to be registered. There is a mandatory DBE percentage goal for the CREATE Program projects, and the project team is committed to hiring local contractors. Additionally, Ardmore Roderick, a black owned firm, has been selected as the prime contractor for the design of the Metra Bridge 87 project. Ms. Huckabee stated that she is available to assist wherever needed. Additionally, the Get On Board business to business networking event will be held next year to encourage new teaming opportunities for prime and DBE contractors on the 75<sup>th</sup> St. CIP projects.

**CAG Members in Attendance:**

Residents (3)

- Amanda Norman, Resident
- Jeannette Purnell, Resident
- Rosemary Richard-Sydnor, Resident

Churches (2)

- Pastor Lethaniel Smith, I Care Christian Center Ministries
- Minister America Huckabee, Beacon Light Missionary Baptist Church

Public Organizations (1)

- Sarah White, Chicago Park District

Schools (2)

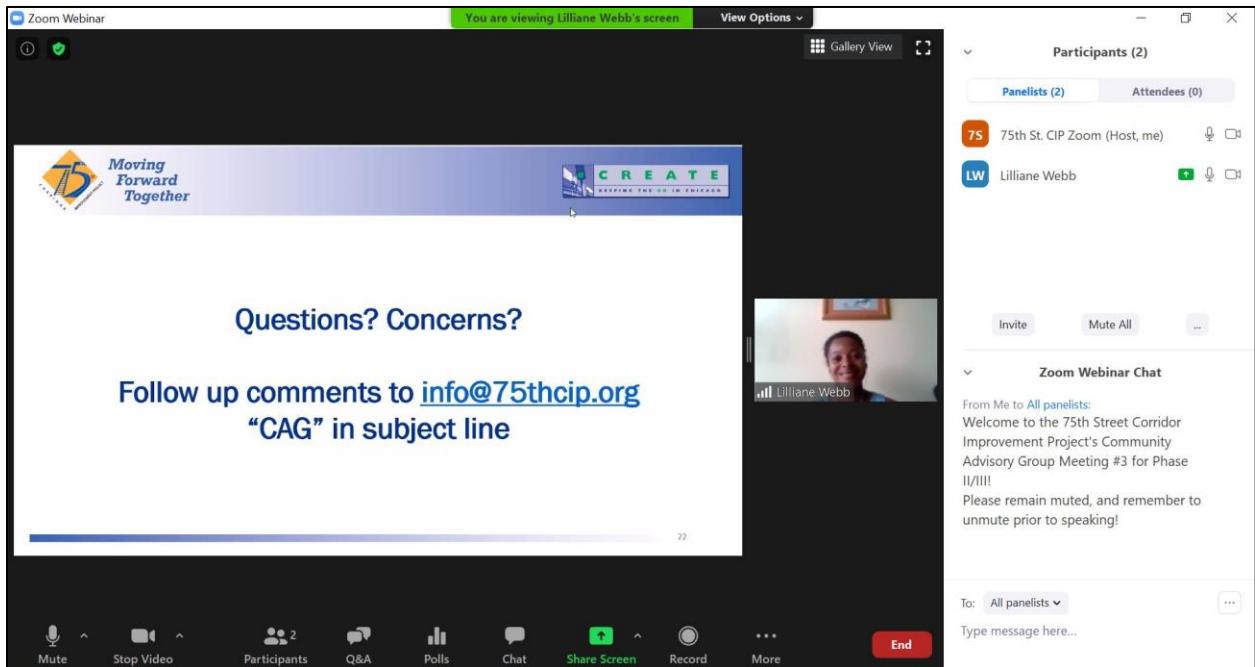
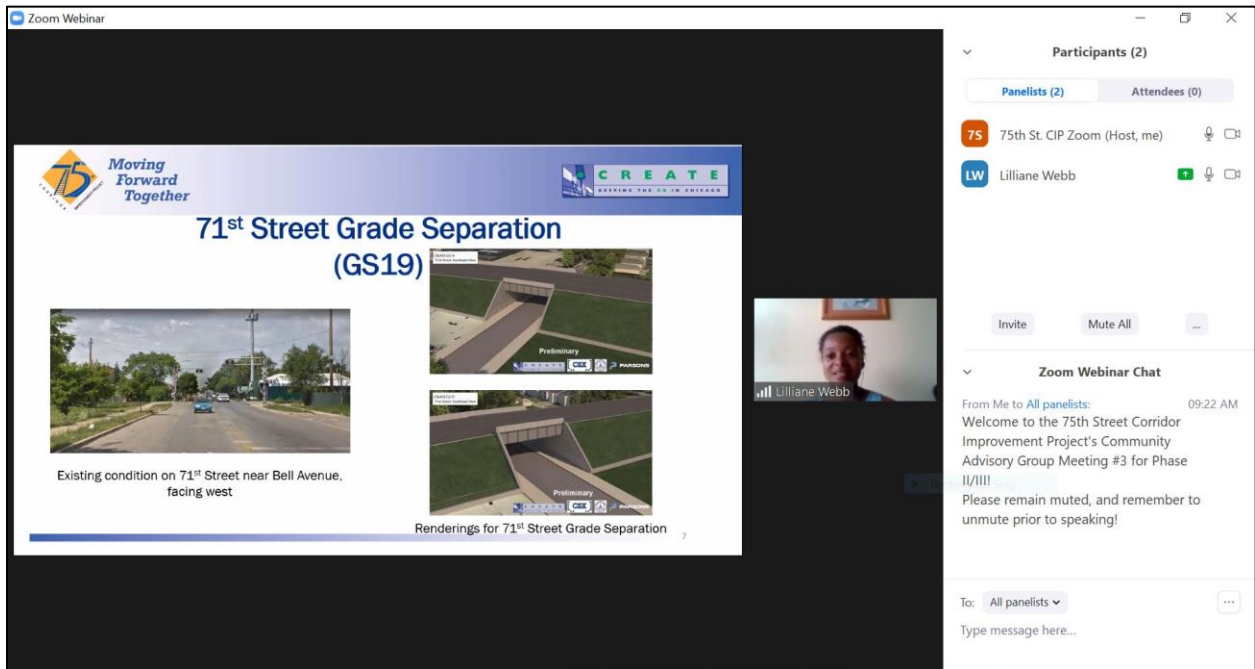
- Monique Dockery, Westcott Elementary School
- Shaka Rawls, Leo High School

Unknown Call in Number (312-XXX-7141)

**CREATE Program Partners and Consultants in Attendance:**

- Jeff Sriver, CDOT
- Joe Alonzo, CDOT
- Jason Biernat, CDOT
- Sis Killen, CCDOTH
- Cecilia Diaz, CCDOTH
- Tom Livingston, CSX
- Brett Guarino, CSX
- Michael Kowalczyk, FHWA
- Lillian Yan, HNTB
- Michael Hurley, HNTB
- Samuel Tuck, III, IDOT
- Jakita Trotter, IDOT
- Jim Levan, Knight E/A
- Tanya Cohn, Metra
- Keith Spencer, Metro Strategies
- Lilliane Webb, Metro Strategies
- Nick Arquette, Metro Strategies
- Herbert Smith, Norfolk Southern
- Erik Varela, Union Pacific
- Chris Ferguson, WSP
- Tanya Adams, WSP

## Simulated View of the Community Advisory Group Meeting Webinar



**Materials:**

See PDF of the presentation beginning on the next page.



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KEEPING THE GO IN CHICAGO

# 75<sup>th</sup> Street Corridor Improvement Project


Community Advisory Group  
Phase II/III Meeting #3  
July 13, 2020

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KEEPING THE GO IN CHICAGO

## Today's Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- CAG Overview
- Project Overview and Updates
- Community Benefits
- Next Steps and Questions

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## CREATE Partner Introductions




Illinois Department of Transportation




ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN RAILROADS



**NS**  
NORFOLK SOUTHERN®



UNION PACIFIC  
BUILDING AMERICA®



**Metra**



**CSX**  
How tomorrow moves™




**CDOT**  
CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION




**AMTRAK**®

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## CAG Member Introductions

- Please introduce yourself by writing in the chat box:
  - Name
  - Organization or Neighborhood affiliation
  - Are you new to the CAG?

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## CAG Overview and Expectations

- Attend all CAG meetings
- Review project materials
- Advise on project elements brought to CAG
- Provide input on community context
- Assist in communicating with the public



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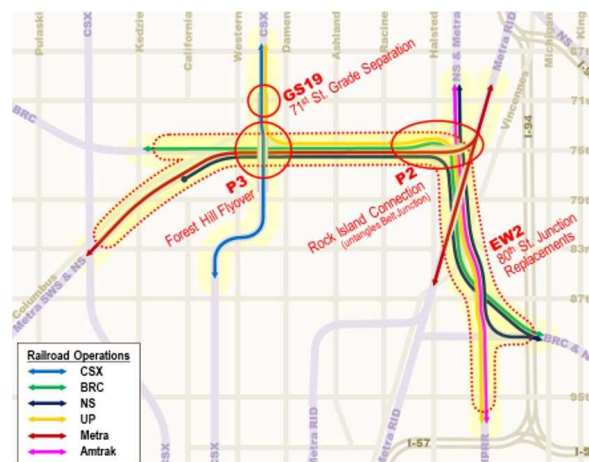
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## Project Overview and Updates



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# 71<sup>st</sup> Street Grade Separation (GS19)



Existing condition on 71<sup>st</sup> Street near Bell Avenue, facing west



Renderings for 71<sup>st</sup> Street Grade Separation

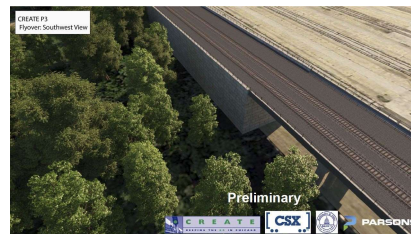
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# Forest Hill Flyover (P3)



Existing conditions, facing southwest



Rendering for CREATE Project P3 (Forest Hill)

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## Forest Hill Flyover (P3) and 71<sup>st</sup> Street Grade Separation (GS19) Visual Impact Treatments



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## Forest Hill Flyover (P3) and 71<sup>st</sup> Street Grade Separation (GS19) Visual Impact Treatments



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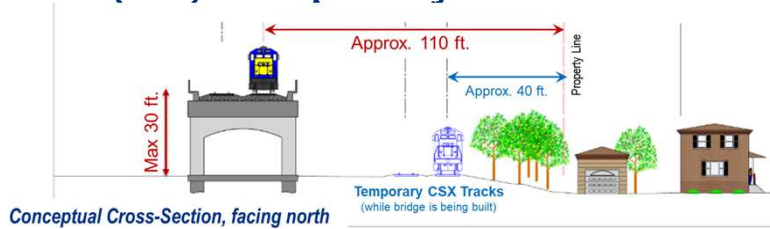


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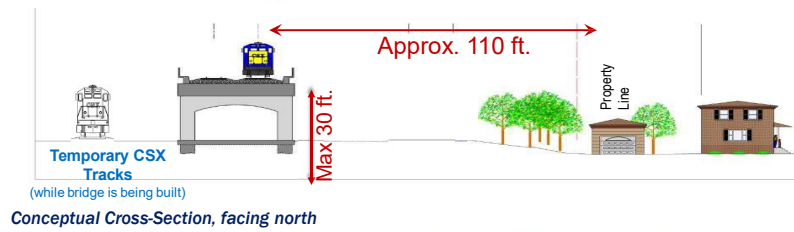


# Forest Hill Flyover (P3) Temporary Track Location

Previously planned tracks located to the east of existing tracks



Currently plan for tracks to the west of existing tracks



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# Forest Hill Flyover (P3) Current Temporary Track Location



↗ = P3 West Temporary Track



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## P3/GS19 Construction Overview

- Stage 1
  - Mobilization, Site Preparation and Temporary Track Construction
- Stage 2
  - Permanent Construction of the Forest Hill Flyover (P3) & the 71st Street Grade Separation (GS19)

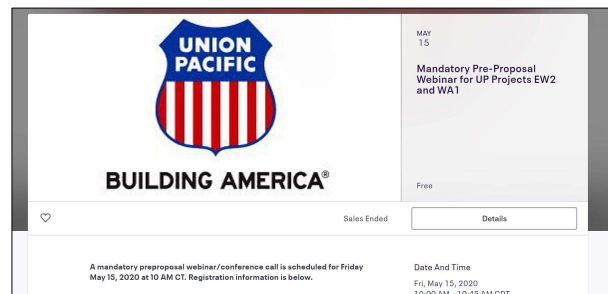


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## Belt Junction and 80<sup>th</sup> St. Junction Reconfiguration (EW2)

- UP hosted virtual pre-proposal event in May with 100 participants
- Design will begin on NS portion of EW2



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## Rock Island Connector (P2)

*Proposed path of structure and land use map from 2014 Environmental Impact Statement report*



Legend

- Multi Family
- Single Family
- Vacant
- Park
- Industry
- Institutional
- Property Acquisition

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## Community Benefits



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## Community Mobility Improvements

- Completion of field/survey work and obtaining design approvals will occur later this summer related to:
  - Street improvements
  - Sidewalk improvements
  - New street trees
  - Bus stop improvements
- Anticipate most of the mobility improvements will start construction during 2021



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## Workforce Updates

- Employment Pathway for Individuals
- Businesses Pathway for Entrepreneurs



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## Education Updates



An engineer from the CREATE Program leading a building activity with Randolph Elementary School students.

- 57 hours discussing engineering and planning careers with students
- Over 300 local students engaged
- \$200,000 investment in science and engineering programs in the community
- Planned field trips and summer internships were canceled due to COVID-19

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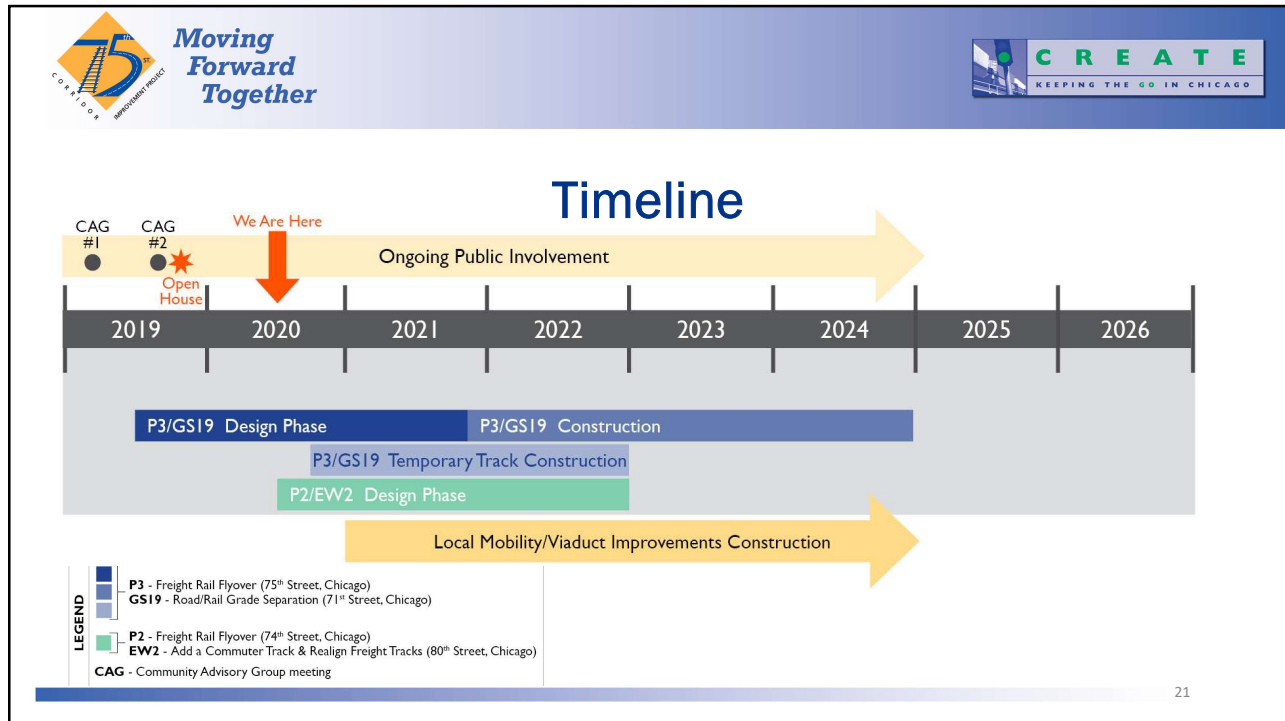
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## Next Steps

- More detailed information and input opportunities will be available at community meetings in August 2020
- Construction information and public meetings to come this winter
- Get on Board will be focusing on construction opportunities in early 2021

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**Questions? Concerns?**

Follow up comments to [info@75thcip.org](mailto:info@75thcip.org)  
 "CAG" in subject line

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