



**Moving
Forward
Together**



75th Street Corridor Improvement Project Phases II/III Public Open House #1 Summary October 30, 2019

On Wednesday, October 30, 2019, the CREATE Program partners, hosted the first public open house for the 75th Street Corridor Improvement Project (75th St. CIP) for Phases II/III. The open house took place at Freedom Temple Church of God in Christ, 1459 W 74th St, Chicago, Illinois, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Open House Promotion

The 75th St. CIP project team engaged in numerous outreach initiatives to promote the open house starting in early September. The project team handed out open house flyers at the 79th Street Renaissance Festival on September 7 and 8 and September 10 Community Advisory Group meeting. Electronic copies of the open house flyer were sent to project area elected officials, members of the project's Community Advisory Group, project stakeholders and the CREATE Program's newsletter and announcements listserv. Open house flyers were also distributed at project area schools, parks, aldermanic offices and places of worship.

Additionally, a project team representative spoke about the project and open house on-air on 95.1 FM and WVON radio stations. Advertisements for the open house were posted in the *Chicago Sun Times*, *Southwest Herald*, *Chicago Citizen* and Metra's *On The Bi-Level* October newsletter. The event was promoted on the CREATE Program's Facebook page, the CREATE website and the 75th St. CIP website.

Attendees

Eighty-seven members of the public signed in at the open house along with two members of the media. Thirty-two members of the 75th St. CIP project team attended the open house to share information about the project with the public. One elected official and an invited exhibitor attended as well.

Elected Officials

- Alderman David Moore, City of Chicago 17th Ward

Media

- Maxwell Evans, *Block Club Chicago*
- Jamie Nesbit Golden, *Block Club Chicago*

Invited Exhibitor

- Lisa Cockerham, Highway Construction Careers Training Program at Dawson Technical Institute

75th St. CIP Project Team

- Derrick James, Amtrak

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- Joe Shacter, Amtrak
- Bill Thompson, Association of American Railroads
- Joe Alonzo, Chicago Department of Transportation
- Jeffrey Sriver, Chicago Department of Transportation
- Cecilia Diaz, Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways
- Sis Killen, Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways
- Brett Guarino, CSX
- Tom Livingston, CSX
- Michael Kowalczyk, Federal Highway Administration
- Michael Hurley, HNTB
- Lillian Yan, HNTB
- Michael Harris, Illinois Department of Transportation
- Jakita Trotter, Illinois Department of Transportation
- Samuel Tuck III, Illinois Department of Transportation
- David Zarowny, Knight EA
- Melinda Kelly, MelKel Group
- Makeda Granger, MelKel Group
- Tanya Cohn, Metra
- Nate Morriss, Metra
- Chrissy Breit, Metro Strategies
- Keith Spencer, Metro Strategies
- Lilliane Webb, Metro Strategies
- Laura Wilkison, Metro Strategies
- Herbert Smith, Norfolk Southern
- Ewart Abner III, Trinal
- Alicia Garcia-Abner, Trinal
- Mario Rico, Jr., Trinal
- Dannielle Thomas, Trinal
- Melissa Williams, Trinal
- Tanya Adams, WSP
- Christopher Ferguson, WSP

The attendees primarily consisted of residents from the communities near the project area (Ashburn, Englewood, Auburn Gresham and West Chatham) and individuals interested in employment opportunities associated with the 75th St. CIP. Additional attendees included small business owners and congregants from nearby churches.

Sixty-three of the eighty-seven people who signed in reported how they learned about the meeting. Sixteen learned of the event through the radio, thirteen through email, nine by family/friends, seven through Dawson Technical Institute, six by aldermanic communication, and two through newspapers. Facebook, block club event, a flyer, “CBA,” Congressman’s office, internet, communication from CREATE Program/IDOT, word of mouth, Phase II designer and a letter were each listed once as ways people heard about the event. Twenty-nine attendees provide no information on how they learned about the meeting.

Open House

Upon entering the meeting space, attendees were welcomed and asked to sign in. Attendees were then invited to view a twenty-minute pre-recorded presentation on loop in an adjacent meeting room or enter the main room to view exhibit boards and talk to project team staff. The presentation covered a brief CREATE Program overview, 75th St. CIP components, community benefits from the project and stakeholder involvement on the project. In the main room, attendees were directed towards a table where they could obtain project handouts.

Project Handouts

- CREATE Brochure
- 75th St. CIP Advocacy Paper
- Community Benefits Fact Sheet
- 75th St. CIP Support for Community Education
- Contracting Opportunities for Small Businesses on the 75th St. CIP
- HCCTP Flyer for CREATE Projects
- Employment Narrative Flyer
- Railroad and City of Chicago Contact Information Flyer
- Comment Form
- Community Mobility Improvement Prioritization Survey
- Community Advisory Group Interest Form

After picking up handouts, attendees were invited to review the exhibit boards staffed by the project team.

Exhibit Boards

- CREATE Program Map
- 75th St. CIP Map
- Benefits of Meeting the Purpose and Need for the 75th St. CIP
- INFRA Grant Award
- Project Timeline
- Amtrak Service
- Community Mobility Improvement Options (P3/GS19 project area)
- Area for Future Community Mobility improvements (P2/EW2)
- Final Environmental Impact Statement Viaducts
- Vibration Impacts
- Noise Impacts
- Construction Mitigation Measures
- Property Acquisition

In addition to the exhibit boards and handouts, four staffed stations with additional handouts and information were set up in the main room. At the first station, Michael Harris, Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), answered inquiries about property acquisition and provided handouts on the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Act. At another, Lisa Cockerham, Director of IDOT's Highway Construction Careers Training

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Program (HCCTP) at Dawson Technical Institute provided information and handouts about the program. Twenty-seven individuals signed up to receive additional information about HCCTP at the table. Metra staffed a third station and shared handouts and information about the nearby Auburn Park station.

At the final station, the project team invited attendees to provide their input on potential community mobility improvement by taking a survey. The survey could be completed online during the open house on one of four laptops available or by returning a pre-printed survey. Four online surveys were completed during the open house and no hard copy surveys were returned during the meeting. Tables were also set aside for attendees to complete and return comment forms and a form to indicate their interest in joining the Community Advisory Group for the project. Twelve Community Advisory Group interest forms, ten comment forms and two resumes were received.

Meeting Comments

Ten comments were received at the open house on October 30, 2019. Seven comments were submitted with contact information and will receive a direct response. Comments included:

- Noise and vibration concerns, especially related to property damage (3)
- Infrastructure/street conditions concerns (2)
- Concern with train frequency, idling and blocking traffic (2)
- Muralist seeking to partner with program to develop mural on project area viaduct
- Interest in outreach and construction elements of project
- Request for the project to integrate innovative and holistic travel and community solutions
- Interest in hiring process
- Request for project and workforce outreach to smaller churches in the community

Meeting Pictures



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