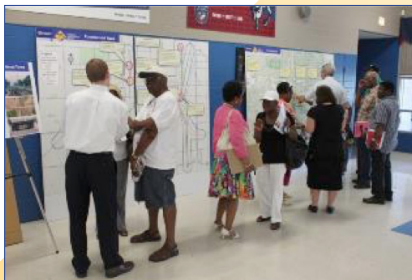


Moving Forward Together



Members of the project's Community Advisory Group discussing potential community mobility improvements on Sept. 10, 2019.



Community members provided input to the project team at open houses and public hearings during Phase I of the project.

Final Design Begins on 75th Street Corridor Improvement Project

The 75th Street Corridor Improvement Project (75th St. CIP) is a rail and roadway improvement project located in the Chicago neighborhoods of Ashburn, Englewood, Auburn Gresham and West Chatham along two passenger and four freight rail lines. Initial planning for the 75th St. CIP began in 2010, involved numerous community touchpoints and wrapped up with a public hearing in 2014. The Chicago Region Environmental and Transportation Efficiency (CREATE) Program partners then began the process of securing funding for the final design and construction phases.

The 75th St. CIP includes the following projects:

- Forest Hill Flyover (P3)
- 71st St. Grade Separation (GS19)
- Belt Junction and 80th Street Junction Replacements (EW2)
- Rock Island Connection (P2)
- Viaducts and Community Mobility Improvements

In 2018, the CREATE partners received a \$132 million grant through the Federal Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) program to complete design on the 75th St. CIP. This funding complemented \$342 million in commitments from the State of Illinois, Cook County, City of Chicago and the railroads. The funding received in 2018 will also complete construction of the Forest Hill Flyover and 71st Street Grade Separation (projects P3 and GS19). While this funded work is taking place, the CREATE partners continue to seek the remaining funding needed to build the entire 75th St. CIP.

In this newsletter

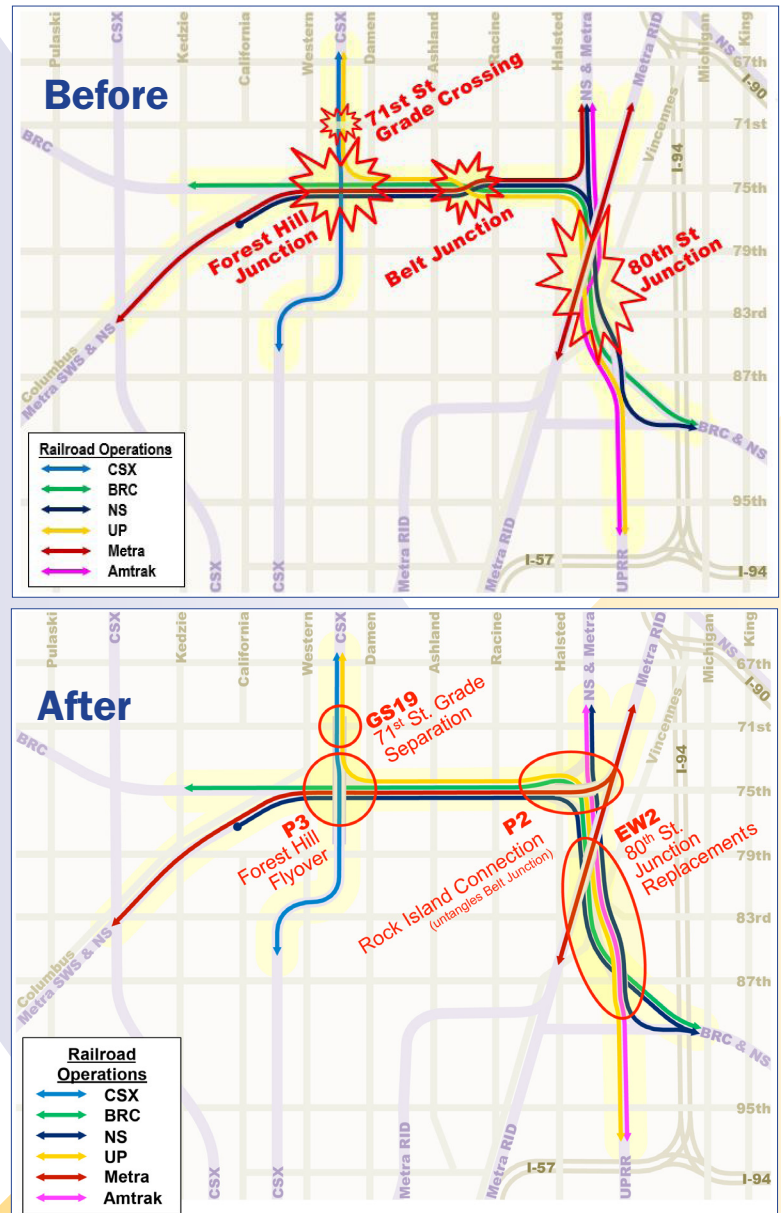
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Why is the 75th St. CIP needed?

The 75th St. CIP will eliminate the most congested rail chokepoint in the region, Belt Junction, where 32 commuter and passenger (Metra, Amtrak) trains and 98 freight trains per day cross each other's paths. By physically separating these crossings, this project will allow trains to pass through without delays, eliminating the chokepoints that today back up trains for miles beyond the project area into many other Chicago neighborhoods.

The 75th St. CIP will build a bridge over the road at 71st Street between Hamilton Avenue and Bell Avenue to eliminate the conflict between the railroads and roadway users. This will eliminate nearly 3.5 hours of daily road closures, improve safety and relieve traffic on parallel streets.

Additionally, the 75th St. CIP will improve passenger rail with faster and more reliable service on the Metra Southwest Service (SWS) line and Amtrak Cardinal service through construction of the Rock Island Connection and improvements made at 80th St. Junction. The project will provide improvements at viaducts in the project area as well as improved mobility, safety and security for drivers, pedestrians and cyclists. Additional community mobility improvements will also be implemented (see Community Shares Priority Locations for Street and Sidewalk Repairs on page 3).



Graduate of Construction Training Program Begins Career on CREATE Project

Dawson Technical Institute, in partnership with the Illinois Department of Transportation, offers the free 16-week Highway Construction Careers Training Program (HCCTP). HCCTP prepares students for careers in the construction industry with classes in blueprint reading, carpentry, concrete framing, welding and much more.

Roy B. completed HCCTP in fall 2018 and is currently working for construction company R.W. Dunteman on the CREATE Project Argo Connections (B9). When asked

about the training program, Roy stated, "I thought it would be more like a traditional class, but to my surprise, HCCTP was more practice than theory." When asked about what advice he would give to anyone considering HCCTP, he stated, "Be prepared. Don't mess up this opportunity. Getting up early, arriving on time and business etiquette were all aspects of the training program that are mirrored on job sites."

To learn more about Roy's experience and how to apply to the Highway Construction Careers Training Program,

please visit www.75thcip.org/doing_business or contact Lisa Cockerham at 773-487-3692 or lcockerham2@ccc.edu.



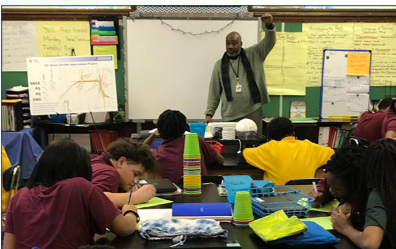


Contracting Opportunities for Local and Minority Owned Businesses

The 75th St. CIP is creating and promoting contracting opportunities for certified Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBEs). All interested businesses are encouraged to visit www.createprogram.org/bid.htm to sign up for email alerts on professional services and bid opportunities for contracted work. Goals for DBE participation on each publicly bid design and construction package are set in accordance with federal and state requirements.

Events to encourage business-to-business networking run in conjunction with each 75th St. CIP contract's pre-bid meeting.

For more information, visit www.75thcip.org/doing_business.



Local students learn about engineering and the 75th St. CIP as part of the CREATE Program's educational partnerships.

Community Shares Priority Locations for Street and Sidewalk Repairs

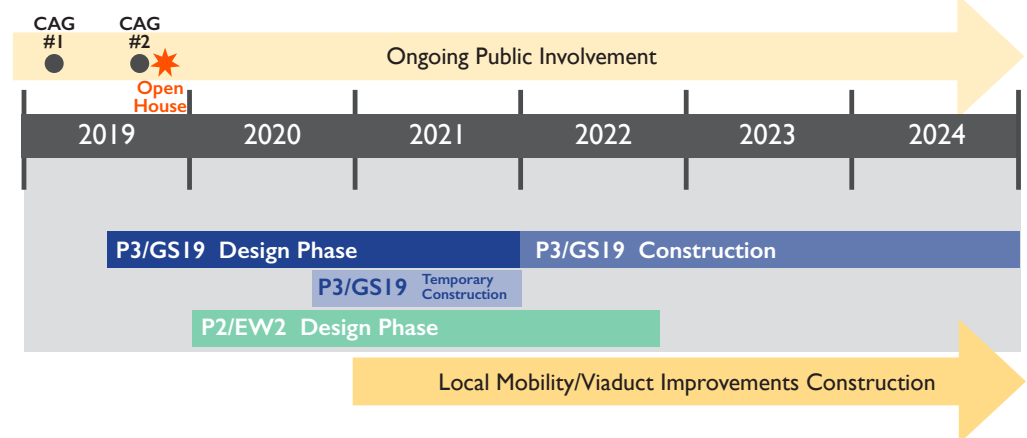
Viaduct and street improvements will be completed as part of the 75th St. CIP. The Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT) will complete additional street repairs under viaducts, along with sidewalk and curb repairs, street repaving, tree planting and bus stop and pedestrian safety improvements near the Forest Hill Flyover and 71st Street Grade Separation. This area is roughly between Damen and Western avenues from 67th Street to 84th Street. Aldermen, the project's Community Advisory Group, and the public provided input on these improvements. CDOT is starting the design for the improvements based on this input and plans to start construction in 2021. A similar community input process will be followed in the future to identify improvements around the Belt Junction and 80th Street Replacements and Rock Island Connection project areas.



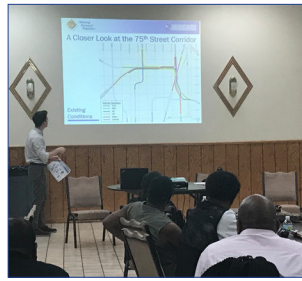
Supporting Local Students Exploring Engineering and Technical Careers

Professionals working on the 75th St. CIP are partnering with Chicago Public Schools to share career insights and technical project information with students at Scott Joplin Elementary School, A. Phillip Randolph Elementary School, Clara Barton Elementary School, Sarah Goode STEM Academy and Englewood STEM High School. Students are learning about engineering challenges and skills required for large transportation projects like the 75th St. CIP. Additionally, CREATE partners are hosting field trips for middle school students and job shadows for high schoolers. The Junior Mentor Protégé Internship program that hires young adults for paid internships at firms working on the 75th St. CIP will graduate its first group in summer 2020.

Project Timeline



LEGEND	Description
■	P3 - Freight Rail Flyover (75 th Street, Chicago)
■	GS19 - Road/Rail Grade Separation (71 st Street, Chicago)
■	P2 - Freight Rail Flyover (74 th Street, Chicago)
■	EW2 - Add a Commuter Track & Realign Freight Tracks (80 th Street, Chicago)
●	CAG - Community Advisory Group meeting



75th St. CIP in the Community

In addition to a public open house on Oct. 30, 2019, the CREATE partners shared information and answered questions at two Community Advisory Group meetings, 17th and 18th Ward meetings, the 79th Street Renaissance Festival, multiple business-to-business networking sessions and on WVON and 95.1 radio stations.

Property Acquisition Locations and Process

Residential property acquisition is only anticipated for the Rock Island Connection (P2) component of 75th St. CIP. These residential property acquisitions are anticipated south of Hamilton Park, where the CREATE Program will build a flyover structure enabling Metra trains to access LaSalle Street Station and additional passenger rail capacity at Union Station.

It is anticipated that some vacant industrial properties will be acquired in the area between Stewart Avenue and Halsted Street to realign and reconstruct existing railroad bridges where four freight railroads conflict with each other and Metra's SouthWest Service operations. No residential acquisition is anticipated in the vicinity of the Forest Hill Junction Flyover and 71st Street Grade Separation.

The final path of the structures for the 75th St. CIP will be identified during final design and may be different than

proposed during Phase I, which could alter the final number/location of properties impacted. Any necessary property acquisition will follow the federal Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 and the IDOT Land Acquisition Manual. This will ensure that:

- Owners are fairly compensated for the value of their property
- Renters and owners receive relocation assistance, including moving expenses
- Other costs associated with comparable replacement housing are covered
- Residents are given the opportunity to relocate within the community, if possible

For more information, contact project team at info@75thcip.org.

Railroad Maintenance Issue?

Please call 311 for all concerns about maintenance near railroad tracks or viaducts. The City of Chicago operator will ask questions and get the information to the right people to address the problem. During regular business hours, contact Debbie DeLopez at 312-744-5911 for non-emergency situations related to the railroads, such as idling locomotives or engines with excessive smoke. She will determine which railroad(s) to contact and coordinate directly with their appropriate staff to address your concerns quickly and efficiently.

Please call 911 in the case of an emergency or trespassing on railroad property.



Contact Information

Email questions or comments to info@75thcip.org or mail to:

75th Street Corridor Improvement Project
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Chicago, IL 60602