



**Moving
Forward
Together**



CREATE's 75th St. Corridor Improvement Project 18th Ward Community Meeting Feb. 23, 2021

Attendance:

Project Team

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Bill Thompson, AAR | 9. Jakita Trotter, IDOT |
| 2. Cecilia Diaz, CCDOTH | 10. Samuel Tuck, IDOT |
| 3. Joe Alonzo, CDOT | 11. Tanya Cohn, Metra |
| 4. Jason Biernat, CDOT | 12. Arlinda Bajrami, Metro Strategies |
| 5. Jeffrey Sriver, CDOT | 13. Keith Spencer, Metro Strategies |
| 6. Tom Livingston, CSX | 14. Lilliane Webb, Metro Strategies |
| 7. Michael Hurley, HNTB | 15. Herbert Smith, NS |
| 8. Dusanka Kangrga, HNTB | 16. Tanya Adams, WSP |

There were 70 unique participants who joined the call, including 18th Ward staff Chaquita Starks.

Meeting Summary

Jakita Trotter, IDOT, re-introduced the CREATE Program, the 75th Street Corridor Improvement Project (75th St. CIP), and its timeline. Samuel Tuck, IDOT, stated the CREATE Program is engaged in many community benefits as part of the 75th St. CIP. Some of these benefits include reaching out to local schools, providing workforce training opportunities, and conducting outreach to local businesses to foster participation among Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) firms.

For the education updates, project stakeholders spent 85 hours discussing engineering and planning careers with more than 300 local students. The program has invested \$240,000 in science and engineering programs for local students while also planning summer field trips and internships that were not conducted as planned due to the ongoing pandemic. This link (<https://75thcip.org/benefits/>) contains more information about the project's community benefits.

Jason Biernat, CDOT, discussed how the project's community mobility improvements involve work related to street improvements, sidewalk improvements, new street trees, and bus stop improvements. The programs anticipate starting construction on these elements in 2022.

The railroads are working on selecting engineering firms to complete the next stages of projects. In May 2020, Union Pacific advertised for design services on EW2 and another CREATE project, WA11, and had more than 100 interested people, including minority-owned businesses, in attendance at the online informational and networking event. CSX also held a virtual event for a construction manager opportunity in June 2020 and held another networking event in September 2020. Nine Disadvantaged Business Enterprise firms are expected to be a part of CSX's construction manager and temporary construction work. The teams were selected this fall. So far, there are 27 different DBE firms working on 75th St. CIP project teams.

Anyone can sign up to be alerted of upcoming CREATE bid advertisements/requests for proposals at <https://www.createprogram.org/get-involved/bids-rfps/>.

The CREATE Program will host Get On Board, a business-to-business networking event, to share information with interested vendors about upcoming contracting opportunities. Due to the pandemic, the event will be entirely conducted online. More information and a sign-up opportunity are available at tinyurl.com/CREATEGetOnBoard2021.

IDOT is hosting free virtual workshops through April as part of its Building Blocks of Success series for firms interested in participating in the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise program, strengthening their skills and bidding on state projects. The workshops are open to all, but some are tailored to specific districts/regions of the state. Find out more information at tinyurl.com/IDOTBuildingBlocks.

Bill Thompson, AAR, explained how the construction for P3/GS19 will be broken out into two stages – the first involving mobilization, site preparation and temporary track construction. The second stage will include the permanent construction of the Forest Hill Flyover and the 71st Street Grade Separation.

Keith Spencer, Metro Strategies, explained the visual treatments on the bridge – or how the bridge will look when complete. There are three options for the visual treatments. Mr. Spencer conducted three polls. The first asked participants which ward they live in. The second asked them how they heard about this meeting. The third poll asked call participants what their preference is for visual treatments. Anyone not able to vote on the call can vote online until March 15 or call the project team to express their opinion on the visual treatments. Mr. Spencer noted out that some visual treatments have been found to deter graffiti. Metro Strategies will provide a flyer to local aldermen to distribute this survey to others who may be interested in participating in the survey but are not on this call.

Ms. Trotter reminded participants of the opportunities for individuals not on the call to participate in the poll, Get On Board, and IDOT's upcoming DBE Building Blocks of Success. The presenters then switched to taking questions from the attendees. The meeting concluded after questions.

Polling Questions:

- Which ward do you currently live in?

18th Ward received 11 votes (73%)
'Other' received 4 votes (27%)

- Which design best fits the community near the Forest Hill Flyover and 71st Street Grade Separation?
- Option A – No Form Liner received 7 votes (44%)
Option C – Quarry Stone received 6 votes (38%)
Option B – Fractured Finished received 3 votes (19%)
- How did you hear about the meeting?
My Alderman received 7 votes (58%)
Email from CREATE received 2 votes (17%)
'Other' received 2 votes (17%)
Word of Mouth received 1 vote (8%)

Question & Answer Session:

Q: Where can people learn more about contracting?

A: The best option is to visit the project website at www.75thcip.org. The website includes information about the contracting opportunities available. In addition, you can visit IDOT's website to search contracting opportunities as well along with other listservs from CDOT and Cook County. In addition, it is recommended to submit questions through the IDOT portal regarding contracting opportunities. Furthermore, it is recommended that businesses looking for opportunities attend the Get On Board event which will provide business with more information on opportunities are available through the CREATE program. Businesses will also be able to attend various workshops where they can connect with contractors.

Q: How will you handle graffiti on the temporary bridge?

A: The bridge is a permanent structure and temporary tracks are on the ground. It depends on what kind of graffiti it is, but the project team will work with law enforcement and other governmental agencies to sandblast the graffiti. There is special anti-graffiti coding provision that states if there is graffiti then IDOT will work to identify what kind of graffiti it is and will do the best they can to remove the graffiti. Textured surfaces tend to be less susceptible to graffiti than the flat surfaces.

Q: Will there be security cameras associated with the underpass areas?

A: The underpass will be similar in some ways to other underpasses around the city. However, the major exception that will make this better and nicer is that it will be a clear span from one side of the street to the other. The second feature is that the bridge will be significantly higher than other underpasses. This underpass will be 15 feet in height resulting in a more spacious feel. There are not security cameras in any underpasses across Chicago and it is not anticipated for this project as well.

Q: What is the timeline of the project from initiation to completion?

A: The permanent construction of P3/GS19 is scheduled to be released for bid in late Fall 2021 and construction will start in Spring 2022 and the project will bid in late Fall 2021 The Forest Hill Flyover project will take about 3 years to complete. Local mobility and viaduct

improvements, such as the Damen arterial project and bus stop improvements, will start Summer 2021 and the bulk of the improvements will start in Spring 2022 and be fully completed in Summer of 2022.

Q: A lot of trees are being cut down like acres and acres of trees near 75th Place and Hamilton, so what is going to go behind that area?

A: Currently there is clearing happening by the contractor with trees that are in the way of the where the temporary tracks will be implemented. Trees will have to be removed when the tracks are built in addition to the construction of P3/GS19 bridge, which will go over top of 71st Street. Pest control is conducted before any tree removal or excavation.

Q: What measures are being taken for baiting?

A: Pest abatement will have to follow the city ordinance and ensure that it is in concurrence with the city's plan. In addition, the project team will continue to ensure that the abatement is needed and communicate through the project website and with the alderman when there are abatement concerns in a specific area. The project team will look into the details for Ms. Washington's specific location and get back to Ms. Washington.