



# Moving Forward Together



## Community Benefits Fact Sheet

The 75<sup>th</sup> Street Corridor Improvement Project (75<sup>th</sup> St. CIP) will deliver transportation, economic and environmental benefits in the Chicago neighborhoods of Ashburn, Englewood, Auburn Gresham and West Chatham in addition to the project's regional and national benefits.

Construction of the 75<sup>th</sup> St. CIP's rail and road improvement projects will provide numerous community benefits. This fact sheet summarizes these community benefits. Additional information on the project, as well as planned public involvement activities, is available at [www.75thcip.org](http://www.75thcip.org). Some of the improvements described below will be implemented in the current stage of final design and construction which is fully funded, while others will be realized when additional funding has been secured for full completion of the 75<sup>th</sup> St. CIP.



### Transportation Benefits

The 75<sup>th</sup> St. CIP will deliver transportation benefits through construction of a road-rail grade separation project, improve viaducts that are a safety and mobility concern in the community and improve local mobility to further enhance safety and accessibility.

#### ◆ Eliminate Road-Rail Crossings

Grade separating the railroad tracks over 71<sup>st</sup> St. between Bell Ave. and Hamilton Ave. is funded for construction. Eliminating this crossing will reduce congestion, eliminate delays and improve safety for pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists (Project GS19). As part of another funded project, the CREATE partners will grade separate Columbus Ave. under the railroad tracks at Maplewood Ave. (Project GS11). The partners have also begun planning for a future grade separation at 95<sup>th</sup> St. and the railroad tracks at Eggleston Ave. (Project GS21a).



71<sup>st</sup> St. Grade Crossing

#### ◆ Viaduct Improvements

In response to community feedback, the 75<sup>th</sup> St. CIP will design structural, roadway, sidewalk, drainage and utility improvements under 36 rail viaducts and construct some of these improvements during this stage. These improvements will enhance safety and security for pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists, increase personal mobility, reduce congestion and improve bus transit operations.



Community Viaducts

#### ◆ Community Mobility Improvements

The 75<sup>th</sup> St. CIP will design and construct community mobility improvements that will enhance the safety, accessibility, quality of life and visual appeal of the community, as well as enhance the transit-riding experience. Potential improvement projects have been identified and are being prioritized for completion with input from project stakeholders.



### Economic Benefits

The 75<sup>th</sup> St. CIP will provide economic benefits by creating and promoting contracting opportunities for certified Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBEs), implementing job training programs and supporting education in community schools.

#### ◆ Contracting

DBEs will be engaged and informed of design and construction contracting opportunities for the 75<sup>th</sup> St. CIP. An event to encourage networking and project education for DBEs was completed in January 2019 and another is planned for construction opportunities in 2021. Additionally, every 75<sup>th</sup> St. CIP contracting opportunity is accompanied by a pre-bid meeting and networking session to further foster relationships between prime consultants and DBEs. Goals for DBE participation on each publicly bid design and construction package will be set in accordance with federal and state requirements.

### ◆ Job Training

The CREATE partners will provide funding for training to obtain the required qualifications for jobs in the construction industry as well as funding for on-the-job training on 75<sup>th</sup> St. CIP construction projects for entry-level individuals who have graduated from IDOT's Highway Construction Careers Training Program (HCCTP).



Highway Construction Careers Training Program

### ◆ Education

The CREATE partners are supporting education programs in the community to encourage students' interest in engineering and technical fields throughout the design and construction of the 75<sup>th</sup> St. CIP. These activities include donations to existing educational programs, classroom visits by engineers and other professionals to local schools, field trips and internship opportunities.



## **Environmental Benefits**

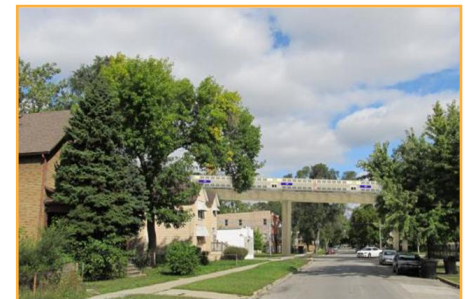
By removing conflicts between freight and passenger trains and eliminating the grade crossing at 71<sup>st</sup> St., the 75<sup>th</sup> St. CIP will eliminate 18,500 annual train passenger hours of delay, increase train reliability, speed and capacity and eliminate congestion, delays and idling for motorists. This will result in air quality and energy improvements; however, additional train traffic and increased train speeds in the future may result in noise impacts. Therefore, noise mitigation benefiting residences and a park will be designed to reduce noise impacts, and landscaping improvements will be designed and constructed to mitigate visual impacts and enhance parks and other properties.

### ◆ Air Quality and Energy Improvements

Improved rail and road traffic operations will decrease train and vehicle idling, reducing pollution and energy consumption and improving air quality in the surrounding neighborhoods.

### ◆ Noise Mitigation

The 75<sup>th</sup> St. CIP will design noise barriers in strategic locations to maximize effectiveness at mitigating the future increase in train noise as required by federal standards.



Conceptualized Rendering P3 Flyover

A train horn noise "quiet zone" will also be investigated along Union Pacific's Villa Grove subdivision, benefiting the communities near the road-rail crossings at 95<sup>th</sup> St., 97<sup>th</sup> St. and 101<sup>st</sup> St.

### ◆ Landscaping and Design

The 75<sup>th</sup> St. CIP will design and construct landscaping improvements and aesthetic enhancements to mitigate visual impacts and enhance parks and vacant properties. Improvements could range from basic clean-up and trash removal to special landscaping, irrigation and drainage improvements, as well as facilities to enhance neighborhood gardening. To minimize the visual impacts of the planned rail flyovers, landscaping, tree replacement and aesthetic treatments will be investigated during design and the final recommendations coordinated with stakeholders.



## **Next Steps**

The CREATE partners relied upon stakeholder input during earlier stages of project planning in 2010-2014 to develop these measures and will continue to seek stakeholder input to finalize the transportation, economic and environmental benefits of the 75<sup>th</sup> St. CIP during final design and construction. For questions, please contact the 75<sup>th</sup> St. CIP team at [info@75thcip.org](mailto:info@75thcip.org) or visit the website at [www.75thcip.org](http://www.75thcip.org).

