



**Moving
Forward
Together**



Construction Begins on 75th Street Corridor Improvement Project

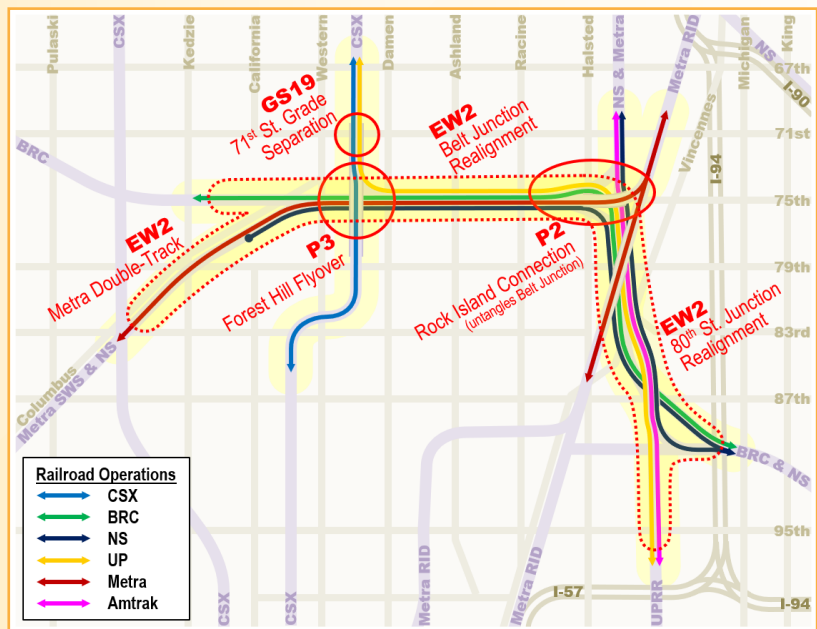
TranSystems and their team that includes six Illinois Disadvantaged Business Enterprises will provide construction management for the CREATE Program's Forest Hill Flyover (project P3) and 71st Street Grade Separation (project GS19). These are two of four projects that comprise the 75th Street Corridor Improvement Project (75th St. CIP). The TranSystems team performs engineering and administrative management services that includes a variety of inspection, management, reporting and coordination work that are critical to successful completion of the projects. Having a skilled construction manager will help meet commitments to the community to mitigate impacts during construction. For anticipated construction timing, see the 75th St. CIP timeline on page 2.



Conceptual rendering of Forest Hill Flyover



Conceptual rendering of 71st Street Grade Separation



In this newsletter

- Design Progress p. 2
- Project Timeline p. 2
- Contracting Opportunities p. 3
- Selected Contractors p. 3
- Assistance for DBEs p. 3
- Remote Learning p. 4
- Get On Board p. 4

Design Progresses on Belt Junction and 80th Street Replacements and Rock Island Connection

Chicago-based engineering firm, Ardmore Roderick, is providing engineering design services for raising two bridge spans for the Metra Rock Island Line near 79th Street, part of project EW2 (see map on page 1). This is a necessary step to ensure the 75th St. CIP integrates seamlessly with construction of the new Metra Auburn Park Station. Design continues on another portion of project EW2 known as Belt Junction and 80th Street Junction Replacements. The improvements for EW2 are part of long-term plans to reduce train delays and address passenger and freight

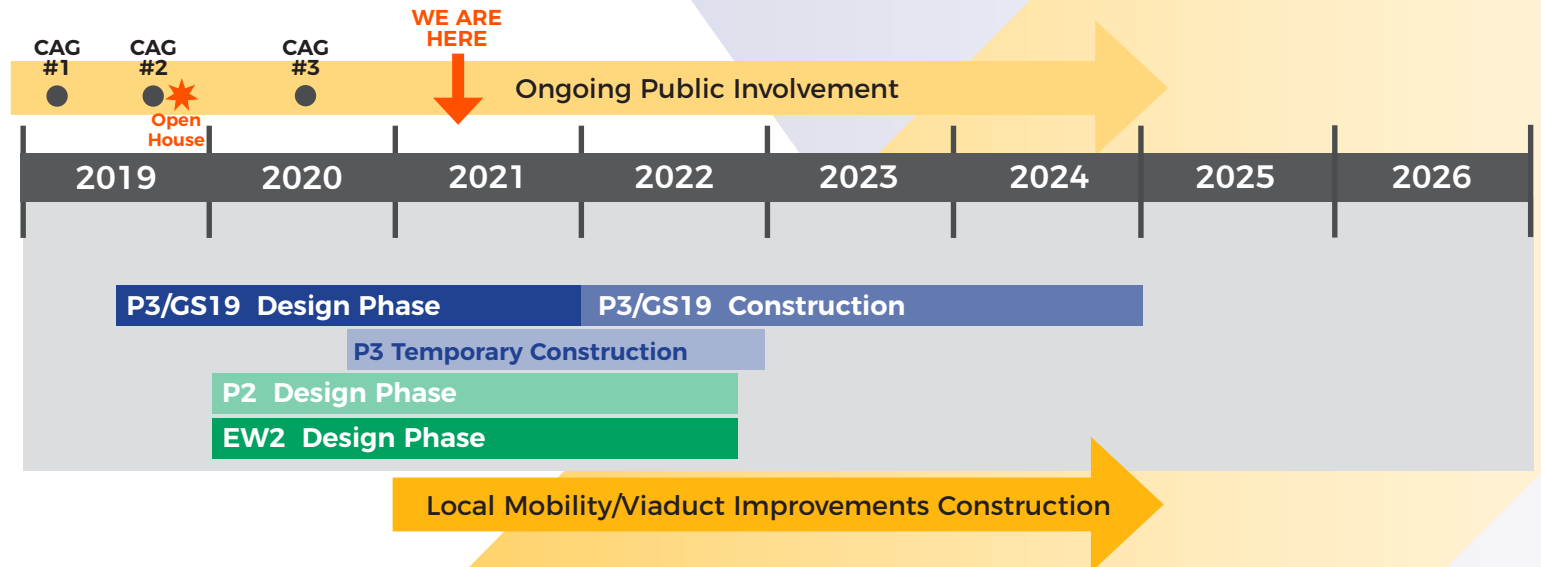
congestion on converging railroad lines throughout the corridor.

Metra has also selected Jacobs Engineering Group to provide engineering and design services for the Rock Island Connection (P2). The Rock Island Connection will consist of a double-track flyover structure connecting the Metra SouthWest Service mainline tracks to the Rock Island Line, allowing Metra SouthWest Service trains to terminate at LaSalle Street Station.

Training Program to Prepare for Construction Jobs on CREATE

Apply for training through the Highway Construction Careers Training Program (HCCTP) at Dawson Technical Institute (3901 S. State St., Chicago, IL) to learn the skills needed to get hired for construction jobs on projects such as the 75th St. CIP or other CREATE projects. For more information, contact Lisa Cockerham at 773-487-3692 or lcockerham2@ccc.edu.

75th St. CIP Project Timeline



LEGEND

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

Ongoing Contracting Opportunities for Local and Minority Owned Businesses

The CREATE partners pivoted to remote networking opportunities to encourage Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) participation in upcoming project design and construction contracts when in-person meetings were suspended last spring due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Contracting opportunities were advertised as planned but used online platforms to encourage business connections without meeting in-person. The CREATE partners held two networking events that each had over 80 individuals register and listen to the contracting information remotely. Contact information was requested of each meeting participant and made public so that new businesses and larger firms could connect.

All interested businesses are encouraged to visit createprogram.org/bids to sign up for email invitations to respond to professional services and bid opportunities for contracted work.



See what securing a contract with the CREATE Program means to minority firms. View the profiles on 75thcip.org/doing_business/

Assistance for DBE Firms

The Illinois Department of Transportation is hosting free virtual workshops as part of its Building Blocks of Success series for firms interested in participating in the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise program to strengthen their skills and bidding on state projects. The workshops are open to all, but some are tailored to specific districts/regions of the state. Building Blocks of Success online workshops will be conducted through April 2021. Workshop information, including dates and times, will be made available through Eventbrite at bit.ly/DBEworkshops. Advance registration is required. For questions regarding the workshops, email DOT. SupportiveServices@illinois.gov.

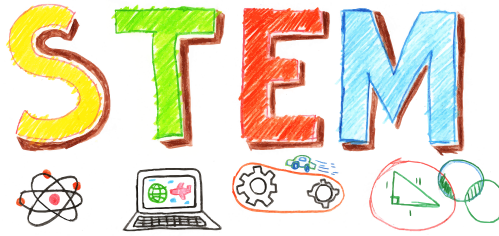
Selected Contractors (As of December 2020)

Project	Contracting Status	Lead Contractor	Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Participation
P3/GS19 Design (CSX)	Designer Selected	Parsons	30% 8 DBEs
P3/GS19 Right-of-Way (CSX)	Team Selected	Mathewson Right of Way Company	15% 2 DBEs
EW2 (Norfolk Southern)	Lead Engineer Selected	Alfred Benesch & Co. and TranSystems	25% 8 DBEs
EW2 (Metra)	Designer Selected	Ardmore Roderick	30% 1 DBE
P2 (Metra)	Designer Selected	Jacobs	30% 9 DBEs
GS19/P3 Construction Management (CSX)	Construction Manager Selected	TranSystems	30% 6 DBEs
P3 Stage I (temporary construction) (CSX)	Contractor Selected	Dyer Construction Company	25% 3 DBEs

Supporting Remote Learning

The CREATE Program partners collaborated with the Museum of Science and Industry and the Chicago Public Library Foundation to sponsor free educational programs over the summer. Take home activity kits were available at several Chicago Public Library locations near the 75th St. CIP that encouraged youth to discover their neighborhood and explore science, technology, engineering and math (STEM).

In fall 2020, CREATE partner Union Pacific helped Joplin Elementary School purchase additional Chromebooks and other technology to support students during remote learning. More recently, five CREATE partners and three CREATE consultant firms submitted videos about careers in engineering and transportation for Chicago Public Schools' virtual job shadow day. The videos explain to students the various careers in the transportation industry



from mechanical jobs to engineering to administrative roles. These roles include many skillsets and education levels. For more information on the education resources sponsored by 75th St. CIP, visit [75thcip.org/benefits](https://www.75thcip.org/benefits).

The CREATE partners will continue to work with Chicago Public Schools and other educators to share career insights and technical project information with local students throughout the project.

Railroad Maintenance Issue?

For all concerns about maintenance near railroad tracks or viaducts, please call 311. 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.

In the case of an emergency or trespassing on railroad property, please call 911.

The advertisement features a dark blue background with green and yellow accents. On the left, the text "GET ON BOARD" is written in large, white, bold letters. Below it, a yellow sticky note says "This event has been rescheduled... UPDATE YOUR CALENDARS TODAY! More details to follow". In the center, the CREATE logo is at the top, followed by the event title "Join Us For a Virtual Business-to-Business Networking Event". Below the title, a paragraph describes the event's purpose. To the right, the event details "When: Week of April 26" and "Where: Virtual" are listed. At the bottom, the registration information "To register and learn more, visit tinyurl.com/CREATEGetOnBoard2021" and the website "www.createprogram.org" are provided. A yellow circle highlights the start time: "It all starts on Monday, April 26, at 10am!".

GET ON BOARD

This event has been rescheduled...
UPDATE YOUR CALENDARS TODAY!
More details to follow

CREATE
KEEPING THE GO IN CHICAGO

Join Us For a Virtual Business-to-Business Networking Event

Get On Board fosters networking between certified Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBEs), small businesses and rail-industry prime contractors specializing in engineering, design and construction. Railroad supplier diversity and procurement professionals will provide information and answer questions during the virtual event.

When: Week of April 26
Where: Virtual

This year the CREATE partners will host panels on **Upcoming Work with the CREATE Program, Working with the Railroads, and Securing Work with Public Agencies**. Networking sessions will also be offered! You can sign up to attend some of the panels and networking sessions or all of them.

It all starts on Monday, April 26, at 10am!

www.createprogram.org

To register and learn more, visit
tinyurl.com/CREATEGetOnBoard2021

Contact Information

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

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