

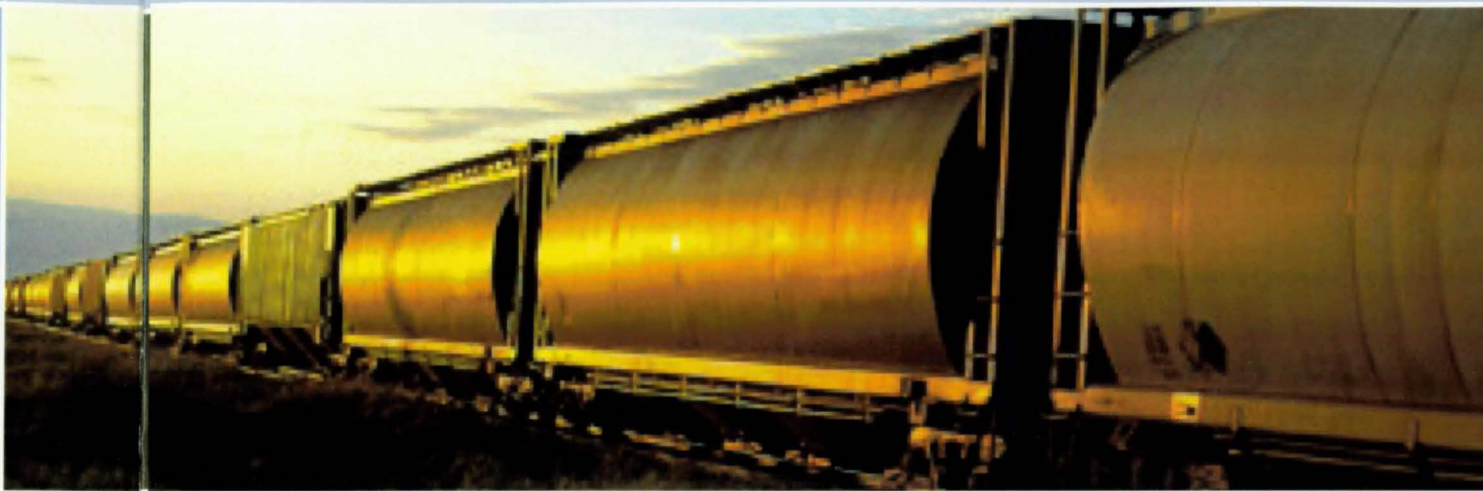
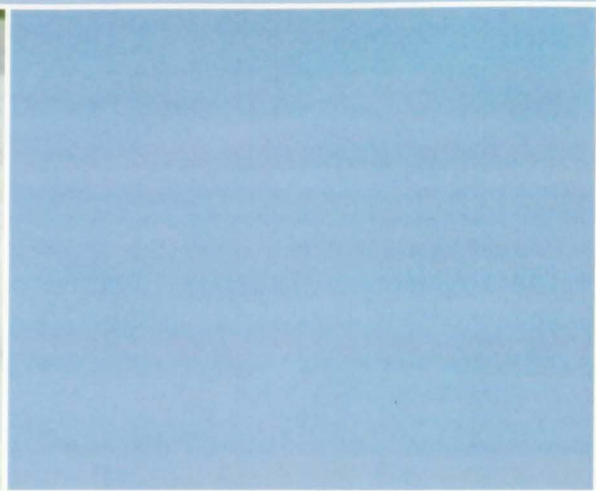


# C R E A T E

KEEPING THE GO IN CHICAGO

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION | CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION | ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN RAILROADS





## A DISTINGUISHED HERITAGE

### CHICAGO: RAIL CAPITAL OF THE WORLD AND AMERICA'S TRANSPORTATION CENTER

For almost 150 years, Chicago has been the nation's rail hub and the world's rail capital. The growth of railroads in the 1800s made the city America's crossroads.

Chicago's freight rail network helped make the U.S. economy the strongest in the world. Indeed, the notions of Chicago as the *City That Works* and *City of the Big Shoulders* are inseparable from that as a city of railroads.

Chicago today remains the busiest rail gateway in the United States, accounting for one-third of the nation's freight rail traffic. Each day, about 1,200 trains pass through the region, powering the Illinois economy with:

- More than 38,000 rail-related jobs, accounting for more than \$1.7 billion in annual wages
- \$22 billion in annual economic value to the region's manufacturers and businesses

As the region has grown, so have traffic jams, commuter delays and rail shipping times due to the convergence of automobiles and trucks with passenger and freight trains. And now the nation's transportation center faces its own crossroads.

Over the next 20 years, demand for freight rail service in Chicago is expected to nearly double. That means more jobs for Illinois workers and increased economic opportunity for Illinois businesses – but only if we can meet the growing need for rail service.

**Chicago is in danger of becoming a bottleneck in the nation's rail transportation system. And that would have serious consequences — not just for the city, but for the entire nation.**

— CHICAGO MAYOR RICHARD M. DALEY

If rail capacity and infrastructure issues are not addressed, studies show the Chicago region will miss out on 17,000 jobs and \$2 billion in annual economic production within two decades. Something must be done now to protect Illinois jobs, improve our quality of life and ensure businesses here and throughout the nation continue to have access to efficient, affordable rail shipping services.

## CREATE: A PROJECT OF NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE



Recognizing the growing urgency of the region's rail capacity needs, Mayor Richard M. Daley called on the federal Surface Transportation Board to convene a task force to tackle the problem.

The result: the Chicago Region Environmental and Transportation Efficiency Program (CREATE), an historic public/private partnership between the State of Illinois, City of Chicago, Metra and the nation's freight railroads.

A project of national economic significance, CREATE will invest \$1.5 billion in critically needed capital improvements to increase the efficiency of the region's rail infrastructure. CREATE will reduce train delays and congestion throughout the Chicago area by focusing rail traffic on five rail corridors.

The work includes:

- 25 new roadway overpasses or underpasses at locations where auto and pedestrian traffic currently crosses railroad tracks at grade level
- 6 new rail overpasses or underpasses to separate passenger and freight train tracks
- Viaduct improvements
- Grade crossing safety enhancements
- Extensive upgrades of tracks, switches and signal systems

**Illinois plays a vital role in the nation's transportation system. CREATE will update our freight rail network to meet the demands of the 21st Century and help Illinois businesses compete and win in the global economy.**

— ILLINOIS GOVERNOR ROD BLAGOJEVICH

For area residents, CREATE means reduced traffic congestion, shorter commuting times, better air quality and increased public safety. For workers and businesses, it means more jobs and economic opportunity.

**CREATE will keep the GO in Chicago – for now and for years to come.**



CREATE will enhance public safety at Ping Tom Park in Chicago's Chinatown by eliminating rail operations from the tracks at the park's entrance.

## CREATE: FIVE CORRIDORS OF IMPROVEMENTS

### PASSENGER EXPRESS CORRIDOR

- Improves reliability and significantly reduces travel time for rail commuters on Metra's SouthWest Service route
- Re-routes Metra's SouthWest Service into LaSalle Street Station, increasing capacity at Union Station
- Improves Amtrak's access to Union Station

### EAST-WEST CORRIDOR

- Eliminates largest freight-passenger bottleneck in region
- Eliminates motorist delays due to trains
- Reduces noise from idling or slow-moving trains
- Improves air quality on Chicago's South Side and in south suburbs

### WESTERN AVENUE CORRIDOR

- Reduces train delays by 95 percent in the region's most congested corridors
- Dramatically improves intermodal train service
- Improves air quality in adjacent neighborhoods
- Reduces noise from idling or slow-moving trains

### BELTWAY CORRIDOR

- Reduces train delays by 81 percent
- Improves air quality in adjacent neighborhoods
- Reduces noise from idling or slow-moving trains
- Reduces motorist delays
- New freight connection increases reliability of service for shippers

### CENTRAL CORRIDOR

- Improves freight service reliability with new diagonal route connecting existing rights of way
- Restores green space along the lakefront
- Improves appearance of railroad viaducts



- ▲ RAIL OVER RAIL FLYOVER
- 911 CROSSING GRADE SEPARATION
- OTHER GRADE SEPARATIONS



## KEEPING THE GO IN CHICAGO

### STRONGER REGIONAL AND NATIONAL ECONOMIES

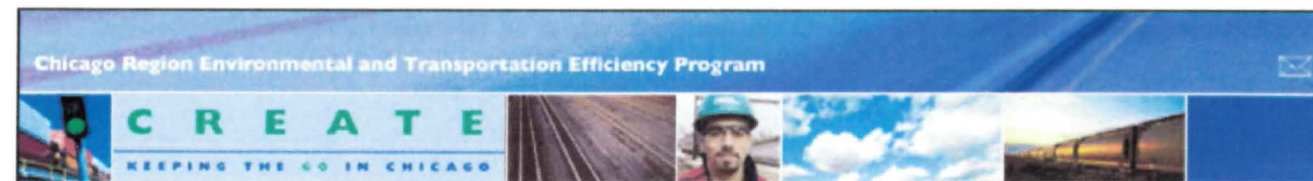
Regionally and nationally, CREATE will spark job growth and help businesses become more efficient and competitive. In all, CREATE will bring public benefits to the Chicago region valued at: \$595 million related to motorists, rail passengers and safety; \$1.1 billion related to air quality improvements; and \$2.2 billion related to construction.

- During its construction period, CREATE will generate an annual average of more than 2,700 full-time construction-related jobs and \$365 million in purchases of materials and services.
- By decreasing shipping times, CREATE will boost the competitiveness of manufacturers and businesses, and encourage long-term job growth in Illinois and throughout the nation. Shippers will save an estimated \$40 million annually in reduced inventory costs.
- Reductions in highway needs and user costs will yield more than \$10 billion in savings for the nation over 20 years.

### A BETTER QUALITY OF LIFE FOR NORTHEAST ILLINOIS

Regionally, CREATE will enhance passenger rail service, reduce motorist delays, increase public safety, improve air quality and create jobs.

- New overpasses, underpasses and other improvements will reduce the time Chicago-area motorists spend waiting at railroad crossings by an average 3,000 hours a day.
- Accidents and injuries at 25 existing grade crossings will be eliminated.
- Police and fire emergency vehicle routes will be improved in neighborhoods with new overpasses or underpasses.
- Travel times for Metra commuters will improve and schedules will become more reliable.
- Capacity on Metra's SouthWest and Heritage lines will increase. CREATE also will permit the increased use of LaSalle Street Station, freeing capacity at Union Station.
- Emissions from cars, trucks and locomotives will be greatly reduced, improving air quality.
- Noise from idling or slow-moving trains will be reduced in residential neighborhoods.
- Green space will be restored along the lakefront.



## CREATE Program Status

Thursday, April 23, 2009

	Railroad Projects	Rail Over Rail Projects	Highway Grade Separation Projects	Project Totals
Environmental (IDOT Phase I)	18	2	5	25
Design (IDOT Phase II)	4	1	1	6
Construction (IDOT Phase III)	3	0	1	4
Completed Projects	4	0	1	5
Remaining Projects	18	3	17	38
<b>Total Projects in CREATE</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>78</b>

**Note 1:** The Brighton Park project is complete, but was a "pre-CREATE" project and not reflected in the above numbers.

**Note 2:** Completed Projects are operationally complete, in-service and may have minor work remaining.



Illinois Department  
of Transportation



ASSOCIATION OF  
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FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT:

[www.CreateProgram.org](http://www.CreateProgram.org)

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