



**Moving
Forward
Together**



75th Street Corridor Improvement Project Builds Up Steam

The CREATE Program's [75th Street Corridor Improvement Project](#) (75th St. CIP) is building up steam in 2024! In October 2022, Program partners broke ground on the Forest Hill Flyover (Project P3) and 71st Street Grade Separation (Project GS19). These are two of the four projects that comprise the 75th St. CIP to help untangle the largest rail chokepoint in the nation by eliminating or significantly reducing conflicts between freight and passenger rail trains. [TranSystems](#) and a team of 15 Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBEs) are providing engineering and administrative management services for CSX Railroad that are critical to the successful completion of the projects. The remaining projects, Rock Island Connection (Project P2) and 80th Street Junction Replacements (Project EW2), are currently in the final design phase as funding for construction is being sought.

Construction Update on P3/GS19 Project

Since the P3/GS19 project broke ground on October 24, 2022, activity is steadily increasing at the project work site. The GS19 project has linked stage 1 construction work schedules with the P3 project, allowing design and construction efficiencies between the two projects. After P3 construction is complete, the final section of GS19 will begin construction in 2025-26.

Work to date includes the following:

- Pest abatement and tree removal activities (November-December 2022)
- CSX track crews built temporary runaround “shoofly” tracks to allow trains to keep operating around the flyover construction zone (January-February 2023).
- Additional tree removal work took place near 68th Street and Bell Avenue (Early March 2023). In November and December 2022, pest abatement and tree removal activities helped to prepare the worksite. From January to February 2023, CSX track crews built temporary runaround “shoofly” tracks to allow trains to keep operating around the flyover construction zone. In early March 2023, additional tree removal work took place near 68th Street and Bell Avenue. The GS19 project has linked stage 1 construction work

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Workers adding support beams to P3 flyover structure



Aerial view of P3 flyover site

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schedules with the P3 project, allowing design and construction efficiencies between the two projects. After P3 construction is complete, the final section of GS19 will begin construction in 2025-26.

As part of the 75th St. CIP, community mobility improvements are being implemented. These include neighborhood street repaving, curb and sidewalk repair, improvements to City infrastructure under rail viaducts, street tree planting, bus stop improvements and ADA ramps. As of the summer of 2023, a total of 154 community mobility improvements were completed within the neighborhoods surrounding the P3 and GS19 projects.

Design Progress on 80th Street Junction Replacements (EW2) and Rock Island Connection (P2)

Since early 2020, the project team is developing final design plans for the second half of the 75th St. CIP, projects EW2 and P2. Several procurements have been initiated to advance this work:

1. **EW2 Design Services - Union Pacific** selected a team led by HDR in September 2022 to provide final track design and engineering

services for the Union Pacific-led portion of the EW2 project.

2. **EW2 Rock Island Bridge Raise 87** - This **Metra** project consists of modifying and raising selected spans of Rock Island Bridge 87 at Metra Rock Island District MP 8.71 to provide additional clearance for **Norfolk Southern** and **Belt Railway Company** (BRC) tracks under the bridge. Final design is expected to be completed in 2024, with construction bids to follow soon after.

3. **EW2 Right-of-Way (ROW)** - Union Pacific issued a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) in October 2023 for track management, bridges, and property acquisition services for their segment of the EW2 project.

4. **EW2/P2 Preliminary Signaling** - This BRC-led work will coordinate design of all signal modifications between the Ashburn Interlocking at the west end of the project and the Dan Ryan Expressway at the east end. IDOT issued a Notice to Proceed (NTP) in November 2023.

5. **Project P2 ROW Assessment Services** - Project P2 will create a Metra flyover structure connecting the Southwest Service (SWS) line



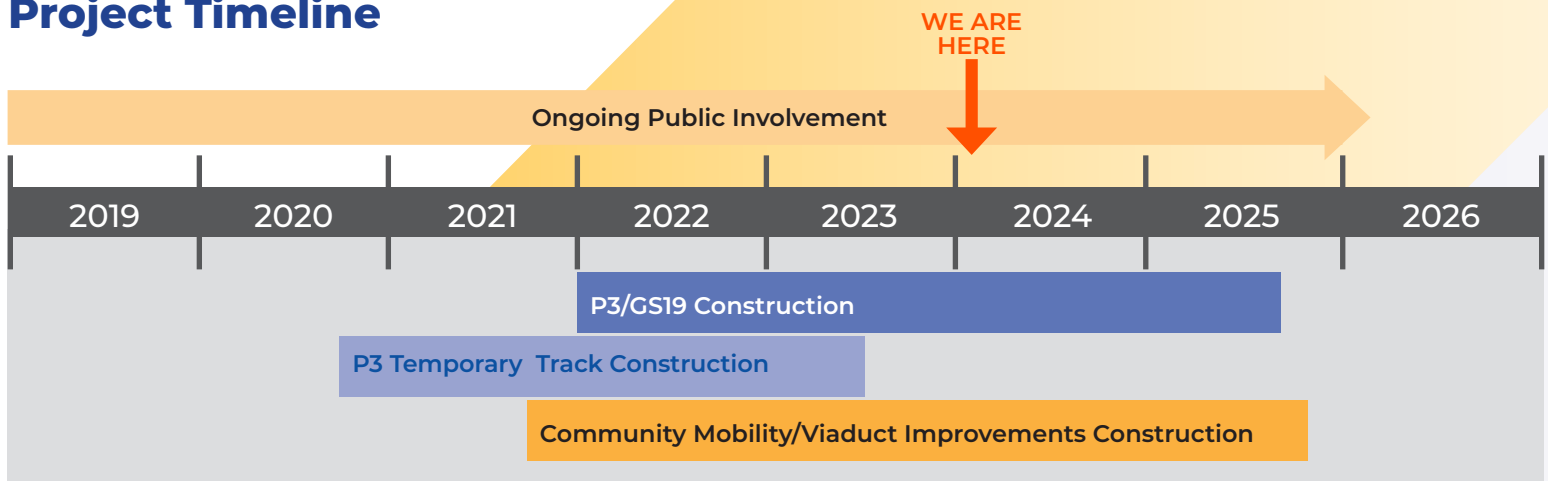
Workers drill shafts for P3 flyover project



Existing conditions P2 project

with the Rock Island District (RID) line. This new structure will require right of way acquisition, and Metra issued a Letter of Interest and Qualifications (LIQ) in April 2022 for related professional services. Metra and other professional services consultants also continue to prepare final design plans for this work.

Project Timeline



LEGEND

- █ P3 - Freight Rail Flyover (75th Street, Chicago)
- █ GS19 - Road/Rail Grade Separation (71st Street, Chicago)
- █ Community Mobility/Viaduct Improvements Construction



Opportunities and Assistance for Local and Minority Owned Businesses/DBE Firms

In April 2023, The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) hosted 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 were open to all, but some were tailored to specific districts/regions of the state. To stay informed about future workshops and DBE opportunities sign up using Eventbrite at bit.ly/DBEworkshops. For questions regarding the workshops or opportunities, email DOT.SupportiveServices@illinois.gov.

Doing Business with the 75th Street CIP

Workforce Development Training for CREATE Jobs

We're hiring people who live in the communities around the project area! The CSX 2023 Railway Career Pathways Program assists Dawson Technical Institute of Kennedy-King College students and graduates on how to prepare themselves when seeking a career in the railway industry. In 2023, three (3) graduates from the program, were hired by partners of the CREATE Program.

In addition, the IDOT Highway Construction Careers Training Program (HCCTP) at Dawson Technical Institute of Kennedy-King College provides training for construction job opportunities on CREATE's 75th St. CIP. Students are trained in highway construction-related skills in a 16-week intensive training, eight hours a day, five days a week. As a result of the HCCTP Program, in 2023 twelve (12) graduates were hired by partners of the CREATE Program, one of which was promoted from an internship position to a full-time position.



"I am excited to join the CREATE Program. Working on CREATE gives me the opportunity to make an impact in my own community."

Darius Moore
Graduate, Highway Construction Careers Training Program (HCCTP)

Project Contracting Status

Lead Contractor Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Participation

Project	Status	Award date
P3/GS19 Design (CSX)	Designer: Parsons 30% - 8 DBEs	April 3, 2019
EW2 Track/Management (Norfolk Southern)	Lead Engineer: Alfred Benesch & Co. and TranSystems 25% - 8 DBEs	August 12, 2019
P3/GS19 Right-of-Way (CSX)	Team: Mathewson Right of Way Company 15% - 2 DBEs	January 29, 2020
EW2 Bridge Raise (Metra)	Designer: Ardmore Roderick 30% - 1 DBE	June 15, 2020
P2 Design (Metra)	Team: Jacobs Engineering Group 15% - 9 DBEs	July 16, 2020
P3/GS19 Construction Management (CSX)	Construction Manager: TranSystems 30% - 6 DBEs	December 2020
P3 Stage I - Temporary Construction (CSX)	Contractor: Dyer Construction Company 25% - 3 DBEs	February 2021
P3 Stage II (CSX)	Contractor: Granite Construction 30% - 15 DBEs	June 8, 2022
EW2 Design (Union Pacific)	Team: HDR, Inc. 25% - 3 DBEs	September 29, 2022
P2 Right-of-Way (Metra)	Team: American Survey & Engineering 15% - 1 DBE	March 27, 2023

Get on Board South

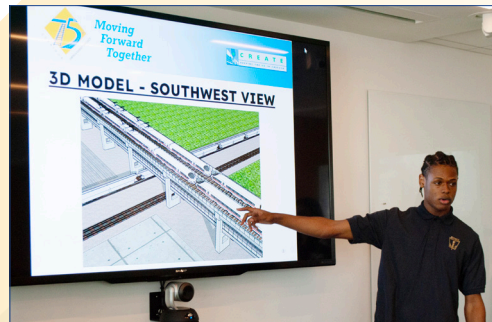
Another successful [Get on Board](#) event was held in-person at Kennedy King College on November 1, 2023! The event hosted 41 exhibitors and 200 participants. DBEs/WBEs/MBEs who attended Get On Board had the opportunity to meet directly with the companies and organizations managing the CREATE Program's 70 projects and learn about opportunities for employment, contracting, and business partnerships.



The half-day event featured two workshops and a networking portion. The first workshop focused on the real world experiences of DBE firms working with the CREATE Program, and the second workshop covered requirements and processes to work with the CREATE partners and related organizations.

This was the second Get on Board event for the CREATE Program in 2023. A Get on Board West event was also held on April 12, 2023 at Malcolm X College.

To receive information for future Get On Board events, [please subscribe to our list serv.](#)



CREATE in the Classroom, Lab and Community

The CREATE partners continue to promote Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) educational programs for elementary and high school students located within the 75th Street CIP project area. This includes in-classroom activities, hosting field trips to rail related sites, junior mentor-protégé internships, and more. Building on the success of similar events in 2023, the [2024 75th St. CIP Education Commitment](#) in-class activities will include a bridge building competition for elementary school students and a Request for Proposal (RFP) competition for high school students.



For the 2023-2024 school year, the Program partners will also continue to provide grant funding to support schools within the 75th St. CIP project area, the Chicago Public Library Foundation, and the Museum of Science and Industry. Previous grants are being used for science labs, on-site visits, internships, after-school clubs, new equipment, at-home science kits, online programs and more.



Check out our [75th St. CIP fact sheet here!](#)

Contact Information

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

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[Learn more about the project, community benefits and upcoming events at 75thcip.org](#)

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