

## Success Stories in Rail Investment

### CREATE Illinois

Chicago has been the busiest rail hub in the nation for 150 years. A fourth of the nation's freight rail traffic passes through Chicago every day. Most of Metra's commuter service and 56 Amtrak trains operate daily on freight tracks in and out of Chicago. With this volume of rail traffic, schedule conflicts and delays are common – the CREATE program exists to improve rail operations and service in Chicago.

CREATE represents a significant partnership between the state of Illinois, city of Chicago, Class I freight railroads, Metra, Amtrak and US DOT(FHWA/FRA) to make critical capital investments in the region's passenger and freight rail infrastructure, to increase efficiency and capacity, and to enhance the quality of life for Chicago-area residents.

A major element of the CREATE program is the recently completed Englewood Flyover. This grade separation of two rail lines eliminates the potential for conflict between 78 daily Metra commuter trains, 46 freight and 14 Amtrak trains passing through this rail intersection.

#### CREATE FUNDING

- \$1.2B received or committed
- \$339 million – Federal Grants
- \$234 million – Railroad partners
- \$420 million – State & local
- \$236.6 million – Pre-CREATE funding

Englewood Flyover Funding – \$142M:  
 \$131M Federal; \$8M State; \$3M Railroad (including Metra)



New Metra Rail Bridge over Norfolk Southern tracks



### PROJECT PROGRESS

Of CREATE's 70 projects:

- 22 have been completed
- 9 are currently under construction
- 5 are in final design
- 14 are in environmental review
- 33 await funding (including 13 from above in final design or environmental review)

#### Passenger & Freight Benefits

A combination of completed CREATE projects and better operations' coordination have resulted in:

- A 33% reduction in delays, benefiting roughly 3.5 million Amtrak passengers and 38 million Metra passengers
- A 30% reduction in freight railroad delays

Environmental Benefit			
Emissions Reductions in Tons/Year			
	Locomotive	Highway Vehicle Delay	Total
Nitrogen Oxides (NOx)	1453	6	1459
Carbon Monoxide (CO)	225	213	438
Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC)	80	24	104

“Metra riders are already enjoying the benefits of passing through this area without experiencing delays due to conflicts with freight or Amtrak trains.”

– Don Orseno, Metra CEO

#### RESULTS

##### Good Jobs

- Construction will sustain 17,000 jobs through 2020 in Northeastern IL
- The CREATE program will provide 172,000 job years from 2018–2040

##### Increased Safety

Twenty-five grade separations are estimated to save over a hundred lives and prevent thousands of injuries once construction is completed.

For more information, please visit [www.createprogram.org](http://www.createprogram.org)