

The Chicago Region Environmental and Transportation Efficiency Program (CREATE) is a groundbreaking partnership between the State of Illinois, City of Chicago, Metra, Amtrak, Association of American Railroads, and U.S. DOT. A project of regional and national significance, CREATE includes 70 critically needed rail and highway infrastructure improvements in Northeast Illinois. CREATE is already improving the quality of life for Illinois residents and increasing the efficiency of freight and passenger rail service throughout the region.

Because of the manner in which train tracks currently intersect with each other and with roads, and because the regional freight railroads defer to Amtrak and Metra in track utilization, it can now take up to 30 hours for freight trains to pass through the Chicago region. Delays in rail freight threaten the economic vitality of the region, lead to increased traffic congestion on roadways, generate unnecessary levels of air pollution, raise safety concerns, adversely affect the reliability and speed of rail passenger service, and make it harder for farmers to make a profit. At-grade rail crossings negatively impact communities and cause chronic traffic delays on roadways. With funding from the State of Illinois, the City of Chicago, the U.S. Department of Transportation Metra, Amtrak, and the nation's major freight railroads, CREATE has begun to alleviate these problems.

CREATE includes 70 projects:

- 25 Road/Rail Grade Separations to Eliminate Grade Crossings
 - Route roadway over or under rail line at crucial locations throughout the region
- 6 Rail/Rail Grade Separation
 - Reduce chronic delays at key points where passenger and freight rail lines cross
- 36 Railroad Projects to Reduce Chokepoints and Increase Capacity
- Viaduct improvement projects – improvements to existing viaducts in Chicago
- Grade crossing safety enhancements – improvements to existing railroad grade crossings
- Common Operational Picture (COP) – integration from dispatch systems of all major railroads in the region into a single display

CREATE Project Status (January 2014)

- 20 completed projects
- 9 projects under construction
- 6 projects in final design
- 13 projects in environmental review
- 22 projects awaiting funding

CREATE Cost

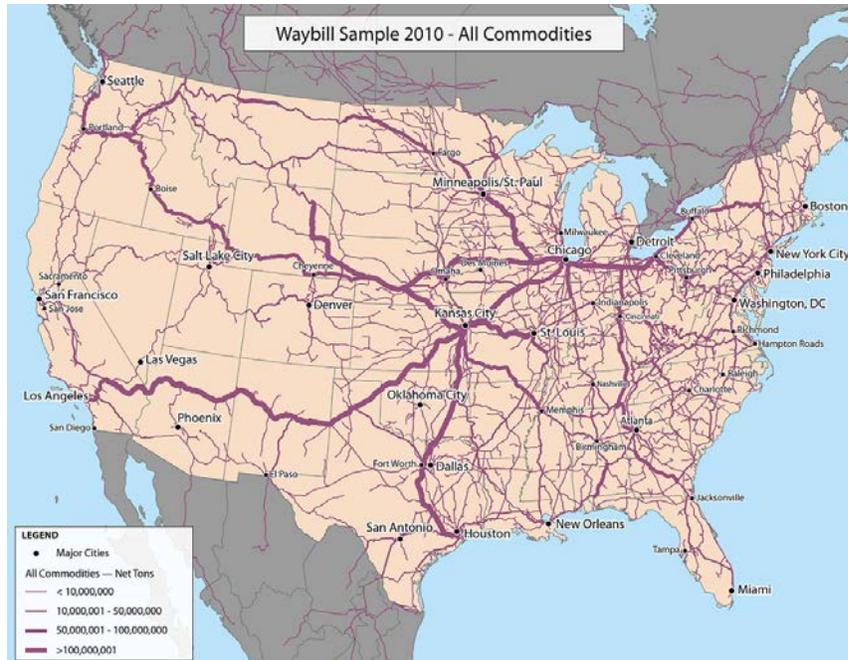
- The total cost of the CREATE Program is estimated at \$3.8 billion in 2013 dollars. \$1.2 billion has been received so far. \$2.6 billion in additional funding is needed.

CREATE Benefits

- The benefits of the full CREATE Program are estimated at \$28.3 billion over 30 years after full project completion.

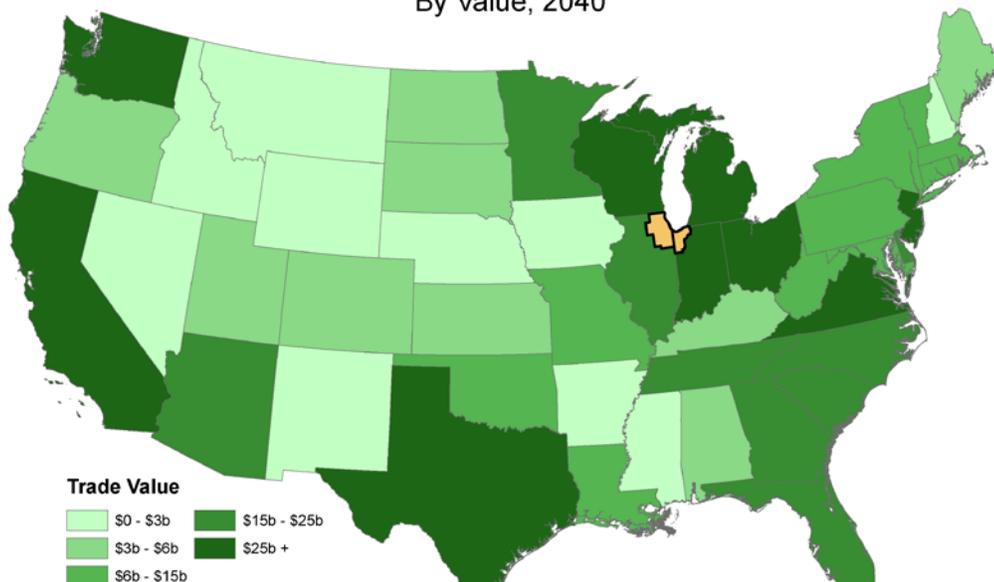
Northeastern Illinois Is the Principal Rail Hub of the U.S.

One quarter of the nation's freight rail volume travels through the Chicago region. Freight rail trade with Chicago from 2011 to 2040 is forecast by the Federal Highway Administration's Freight Analysis Framework to triple by value and double by weight. The system is overloaded. With the rising volume of freight and the rising cost of fuel, the problem will only get worse.



Source: FRA <http://www.fra.dot.gov/Page/P0362>

Rail Trading Partners with Chicago Metro Area By Value, 2040



2/2014

Source: FHWA, Freight Analysis Framework 3.4