



Quality of Life Benefits of the CREATE Program

Delay at Grade Crossings

- New overpasses and underpasses at 25 at-grade railroad crossings throughout the Chicago region will save motorists 2,400 hours per day.
- Each weekday, over 1,200 buses and almost 40,000 bus passengers travel over ten at-grade railroad crossings in the CREATE program. Removing these at-grade crossings will save passengers 1,400 hours of delay per day.

Grade Crossing Separation Community Benefits

- Road-rail grade crossing separations have many other benefits beyond improving safety and reducing vehicle delay. Communities that have lived with an at-rail grade crossing often find that the character of the community is improved significantly once this barrier to movement and access is removed. Companies are more likely to consider locating in a community after an at-grade crossing is removed because they now will be able to reliably move goods and their employees will be able to reach the workplace on time. Property values may increase due to improved transportation access and reliability.

Safety

- The 25 grade separations for CREATE are estimated to save more than 21 lives and 84 injuries during the 30 years after construction is completed, which is estimated at over \$222 million dollars in safety benefits.
- Seven of the at-grade highway crossings that will be separated by CREATE are designated as City of Chicago "911 Critical Crossings," which are defined as integral to the movement of emergency services vehicles.
- If CREATE were not completed, and the Chicago area rail network reached saturation, a portion of future increases in freight traffic would be diverted to truck. By increasing rail capacity through complete construction of CREATE, an estimated 85 billion vehicle miles of truck traffic will be avoided, leading to avoidance of an estimated 100 fatalities and 16,800 injuries on the highways due to trucks over a 30-year period.



Environment

- Idling cars burn an average of one gallon of fuel every three hours.¹ Due to reduced delay at grade-crossings and on highways, cars will save an estimated 200,000 gallons of gasoline each year.
- Diesel exhaust contains more than 40 toxic air contaminants, and can cause both immediate and long term health effects, including irritation, nausea, asthma, and lung cancer.² Completion of CREATE will allow trucks and locomotives to save 3.4 million gallons of diesel fuel annually.

Passenger Rail Delay

- More than 100,000 passenger trains pass through the Chicago area terminal annually, and additional service will likely be needed to meet future passenger demand. Most passenger service operates on freight-owned tracks, sharing space with more than 100,000 freight trains annually. Growing congestion on the rail system is estimated to result in a three-fold increase in passenger delay per train if CREATE is not completed. Through increasing the capacity and efficiency of the rail system, the full CREATE program will prevent an average of 817,000 passenger hours of delay annually.

Viaduct Improvement Community Benefits

- The Viaduct Improvement Program addresses significant roadway, sidewalk, safety and utility deficiencies under rail viaducts in the City of Chicago. In some project locations, the roadway surface was substandard due to the diversion of water runoff from eroding viaduct abutment walls. This program resurfaces, rehabilitates and restores the roadway and sidewalk. The program also includes utility and drainage improvements and ADA compliant ramps in some locations.
- The roadway/sidewalk/curb and gutter projects enhance safety and security for motorists and pedestrians, increase personal mobility, reduce congestion and improve bus transit operations. Improvement of the transportation and utility infrastructure in these locations enhances the quality of life within these communities.

¹ US Department of Energy

² California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment