



TIGER-funded CREATE Project Completed

Reduces Rail Congestion and Improves Reliability

BLUE ISLAND/DOLTON (October 3, 2012) -The Chicago Region Environmental and Transportation Efficiency Program (CREATE) partners announce the completion of one of the projects funded through the Transportation Investment Generating Economy Recovery (TIGER) grants.

"The CREATE partners thank the members of the congressional delegation, civic organizations and businesses that supported our TIGER grant application. It feels good to show them that their support means something. This project will make a difference in the communities and the efficiency of rail operations" said Joseph Spano, IHB General Superintendent.

The Blue Island-Riverdale-Dolton Signal Modernization Project (CREATE Project B15) allows for increased train speed in the project area from 15 mph to 30 mph. With the improvements trains are expected to pass through in as little as six minutes. Trains used to experience 15 to 30 minutes of delay for every hand-operated switch they navigated as well as when waiting for other trains to navigate the project limits with manual switches. Most trains spent up to one hour to traverse the limits of this project. Increased freight speeds and improved fluidity on the IHB will allow trains to clear Dolton Interlocking more quickly, reducing the potential for freight conflict with Amtrak trains to and from Indianapolis and improving passenger and freight travel time, speed, and reliability.

The project installed a new bi-directional computerized Traffic Control System (TCS) on a three-mile segment of Indiana Harbor Belt mainline track along the northside of Blue Island Yard. This project provides two new control points, which included installation of a series of crossovers at CP School Street and a turnout at CP Ashland. Additional crossovers were added to CP Harvey. The project also includes the installation of electric lock switches and the replacement of approximately five hand-thrown switches with power operated switches. See the [B15 project fact sheet](#) for more information.

The \$14.4 million project was funded with federal funds from the ARRA TIGER award, state funds, along with railroad contributions for project design. This is the second TIGER I CREATE project to be completed.

CREATE partners commented:

"By improving Chicago's ability to handle the growing volume of freight and commuter rail traffic, our CREATE partners are ensuring the long-term economic health of the entire region," said Division Administrator Norm Stoner of the Federal Highway Administration's Illinois Division.

"IDOT is very proud of the partnership embodied by the Chicago Region Environmental and Transportation Efficiency Program, and understands how vital the completion of this important project is to rail commuters and freight logistic operations served," said Illinois Transportation Secretary Ann L. Schneider. "This huge improvement project upgrades the traffic control network, cuts freight travel times and delays through the segment in half, boosts safety and greatly improves shipping capabilities and efficiencies."

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The CREATE program is a unique partnership of the State of Illinois, the U.S. Department of Transportation, the City of Chicago, Amtrak, Metra, and the Class I railroads. To date, 15 CREATE projects have been completed, reducing passenger and freight train delays by 33% and 28%, respectively, in the areas in which the projects have been completed. Another 11 are in construction now, with five more in final design. For more information on CREATE, please visit www.createprogram.org.



For more information:

IHB Railroad, Rodger Serpe, (312) 827-2680

Illinois DOT, Mike Claffey, (312) 814-3957, mike.claffey@illinois.gov, or Josh Kauffman, (217) 558-0517, josh.kauffman@illinois.gov

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