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CREATE PROGRAM Status Update – January 2021

The Chicago Region Environmental and Transportation Efficiency (CREATE) Program is a 70-project, \$4.6 billion plan to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of freight, commuter and intercity passenger rail and to reduce highway delay in the Chicago region. This innovative public-private partnership involves the U.S. Department of Transportation, State of Illinois, Cook County, City of Chicago and the freight, passenger and commuter railroads serving the Chicago region.



Current Project Status

Completed Projects	31
Under Construction	4
Final Design	8
Environmental Review	8
Remaining Projects	19
TOTAL	70

Current Funding Status and Need

Over \$1.6 billion has been committed to date from federal, state, local and private railroad sources. The CREATE partners have made significant progress with the funding available so far. An estimated \$3 billion is needed to complete the full program of projects.

CREATE Benefits

- Safety
- Air Quality/Environmental
- Passenger Rail
- Economic/Trade
- Employment

CREATE-ing Jobs

Full implementation of the CREATE Program will generate an estimated 44,000 job years.¹

To see fact sheets detailing these benefits, visit createprogram.org/about



\$31.5 Billion Economic Impacts of CREATE²

- CREATE Program will generate \$31.5 billion in economic benefits over 30 years.
- Passenger train delay will be reduced by over 1.3 million passenger hours annually by 2051.
- An annual average of 92,000 hours of truck delay and 230,000 hours of motorist and bus passenger delay will be saved due to elimination of at-grade crossings.
- Avoid approximately 200 vehicle crashes with trains over 30 years.
- 2,800 metric tons per year of avoided emissions from idling vehicles waiting for trains to pass.
- Rail system capacity benefits will enable an extra 50,000 freight trains to travel through the greater Chicago rail network annually in 2051 compared to no improvements.
 - If CREATE rail improvements are not made, some rail freight traffic would be shifted to trucks. By 2047, due to the additional rail capacity from CREATE projects, 122 million tons of freight per year, or about 18,500 truck trips per day would be avoided on the highways. This would result in reduced pavement damage to roadways as well as reduced risk of crashes involving trucks and reduced emissions.

Note: estimated costs over 30 years are presented in undiscounted \$2015 dollars.

Current Funding Commitments*

Federal	\$647 million
State	\$461 million
Railroads	\$375 million
Local Governments	\$150 million

* These figures do not reflect

- \$400M allocated to the CREATE Program and \$118M for the 63rd St. and Harlem Ave. Grade Separation Project (GS1) in the 2019 Rebuild Illinois Capital Program
- \$13M for the Pullman Junction Project (EW3A) in the 2019 Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) Program Grant

1 A job year is equivalent to one full time job worked for one year, or two full time jobs worked for six months, etc. Based on IDOT multipliers of 8.35 direct, 11 indirect and 10.5 induced job years per \$million of investment.

2 Source: CREATE economic benefits study conducted by Cambridge Systematics, 2015