

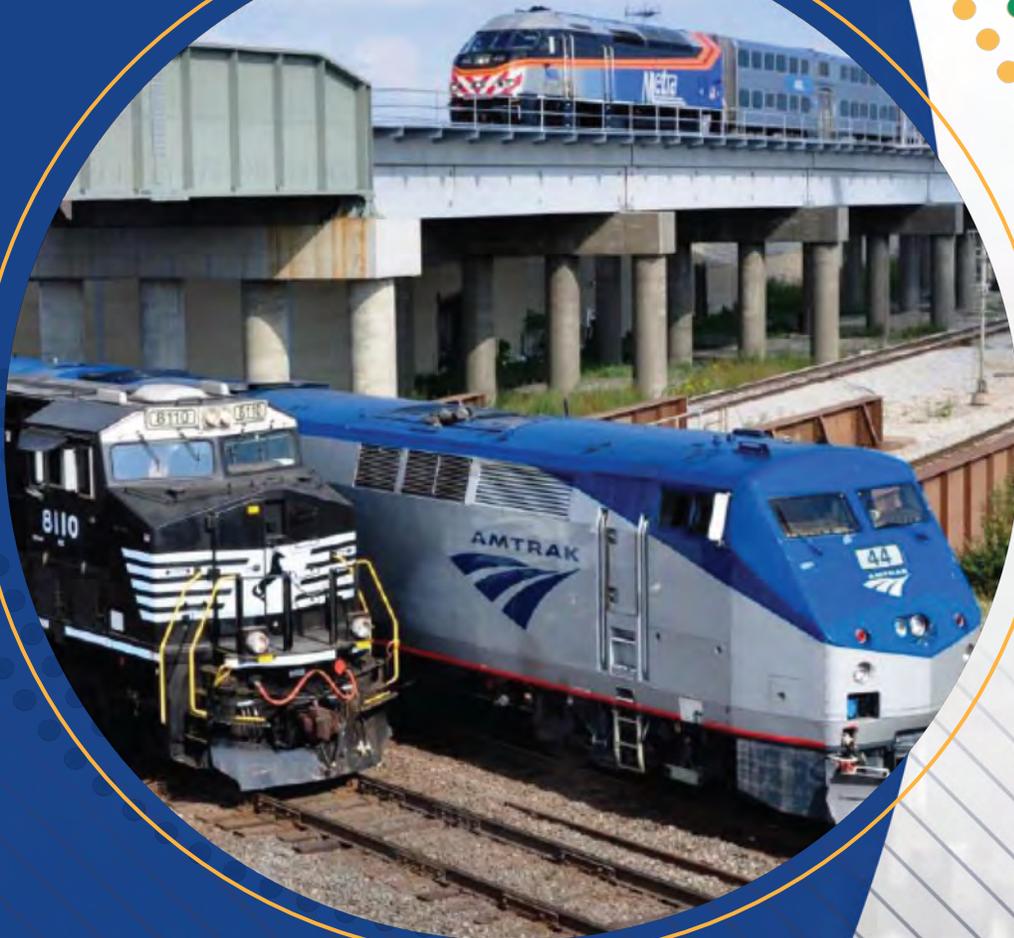


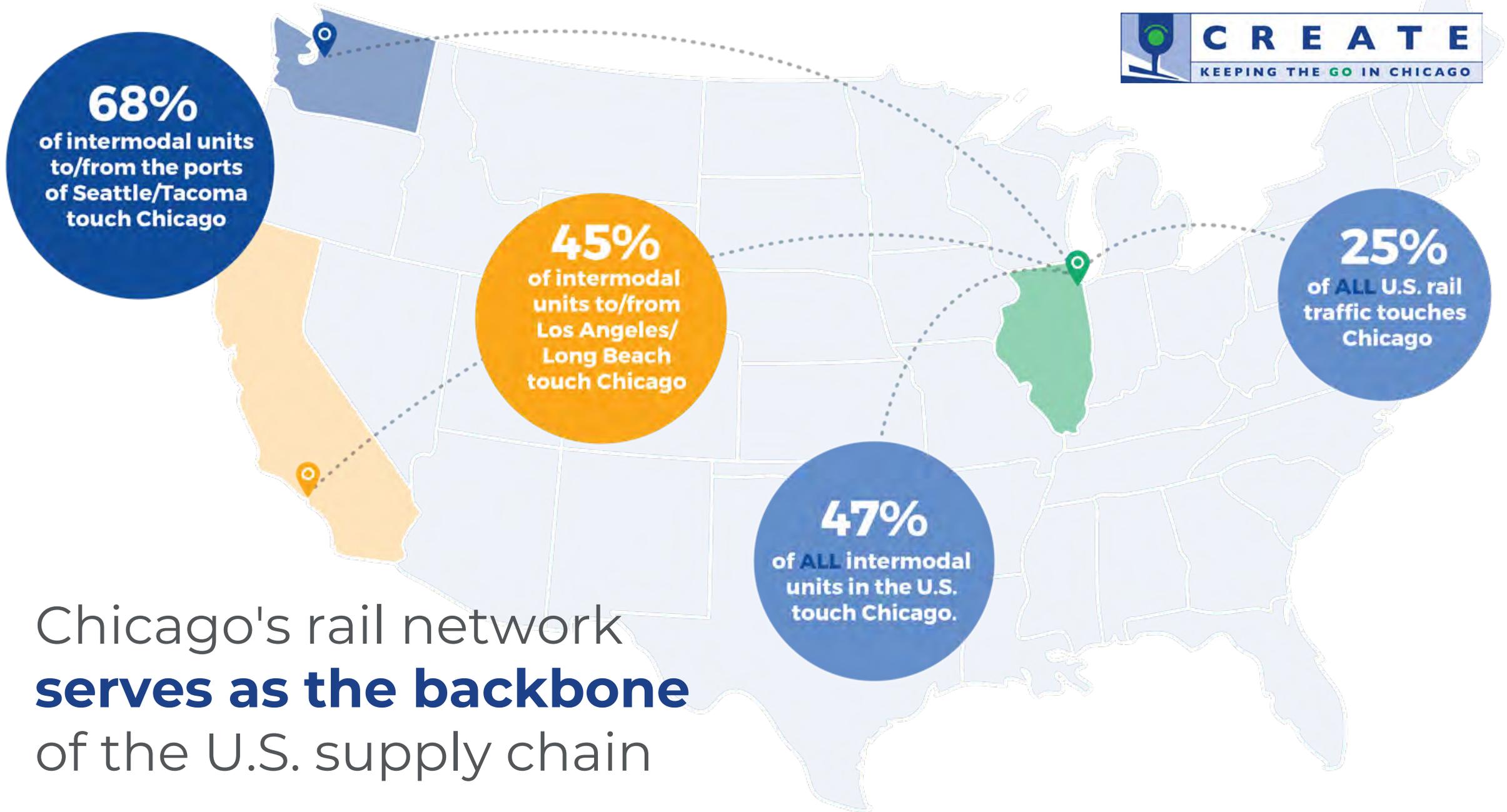
Public-Private Partnership (P3) Success Story

Advancing Freight and Passenger Rail Projects in Cook County and the Future of CREATE Program

National Railroad Construction and
Maintenance Association Conference

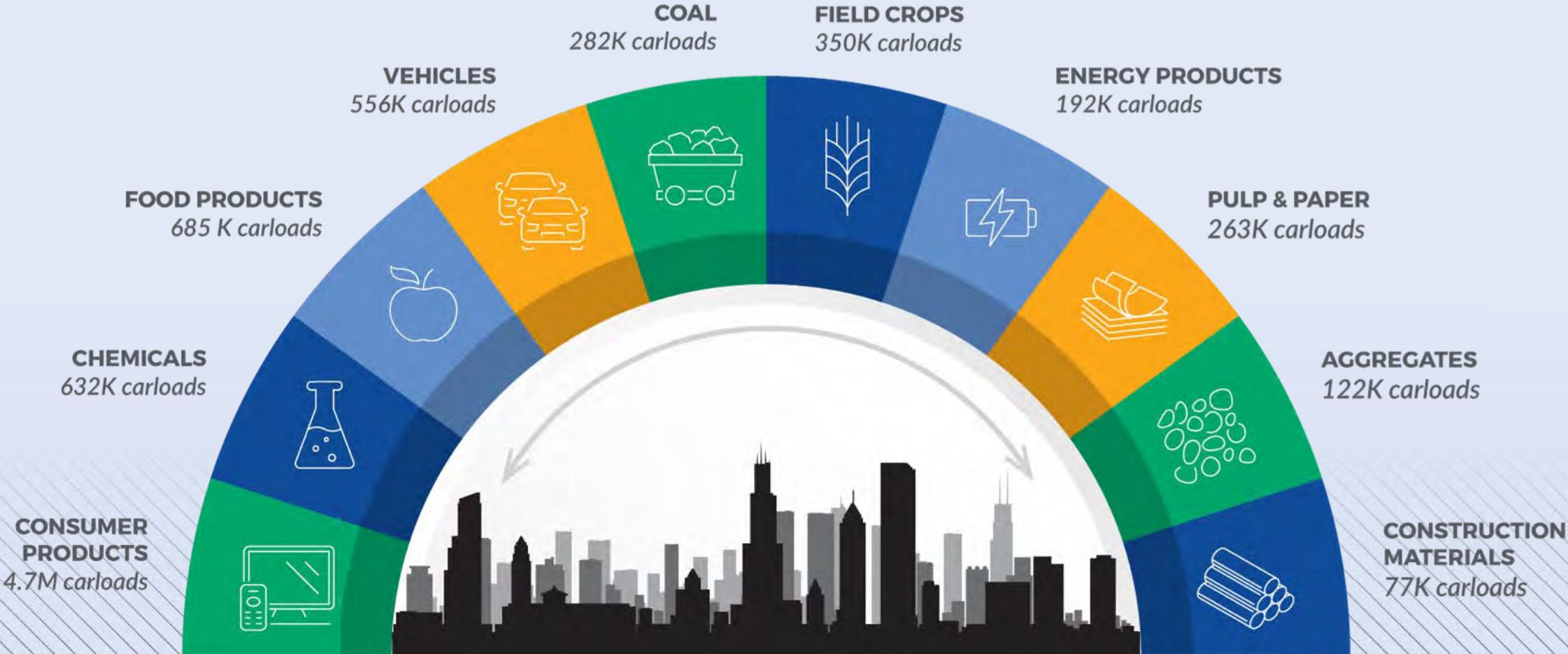
January 10, 2026





Chicago's rail network
serves as the backbone
of the U.S. supply chain

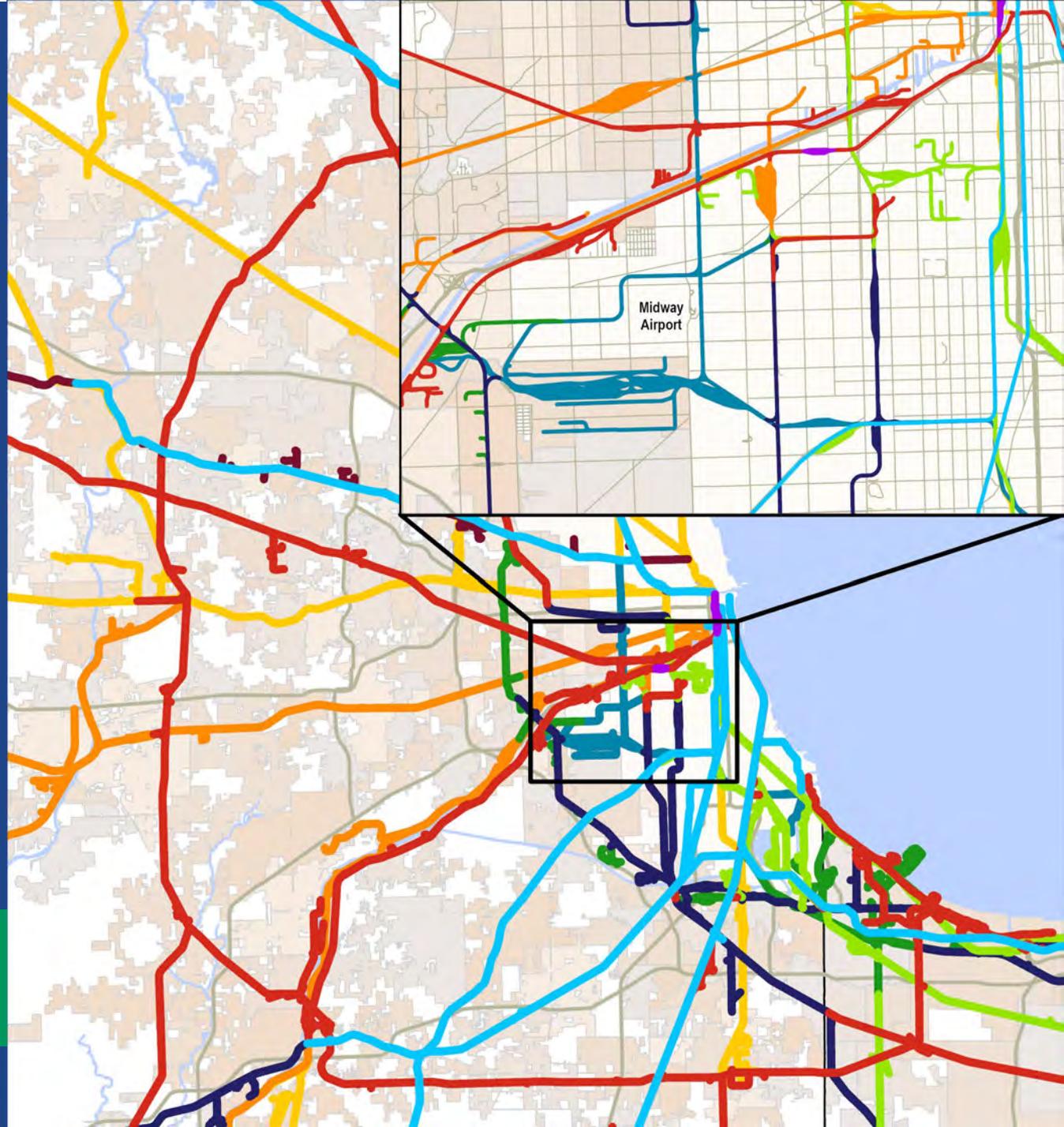
Chicago region top commodities by rail



Chicago Average Daily Traffic

- 500 freight trains
- 700 passenger trains
- 22,000 containers
- 200,000 commuters
- 10,000 intercity rail passengers

CHICAGO: North America's busiest
rail hub for past 150 years





CREATE OVERVIEW

- ✓ How and why CREATE formed
- ✓ Local and National benefits of CREATE
- ✓ Funding Commitments
- ✓ Program Projects

From IDEA to REALITY

1999

Chicago Planning Group formed

2003

Chicago Region Environmental & Transportation Efficiency Program launched (CREATE)

2000

Chicago Transportation Coordination Office (CTCO)

2016

Chicago Integrated Rail Operations Center (CIROC)

CREATE PARTNERS



a \$5.8 billion

FIRST-OF-ITS-KIND PARTNERSHIP



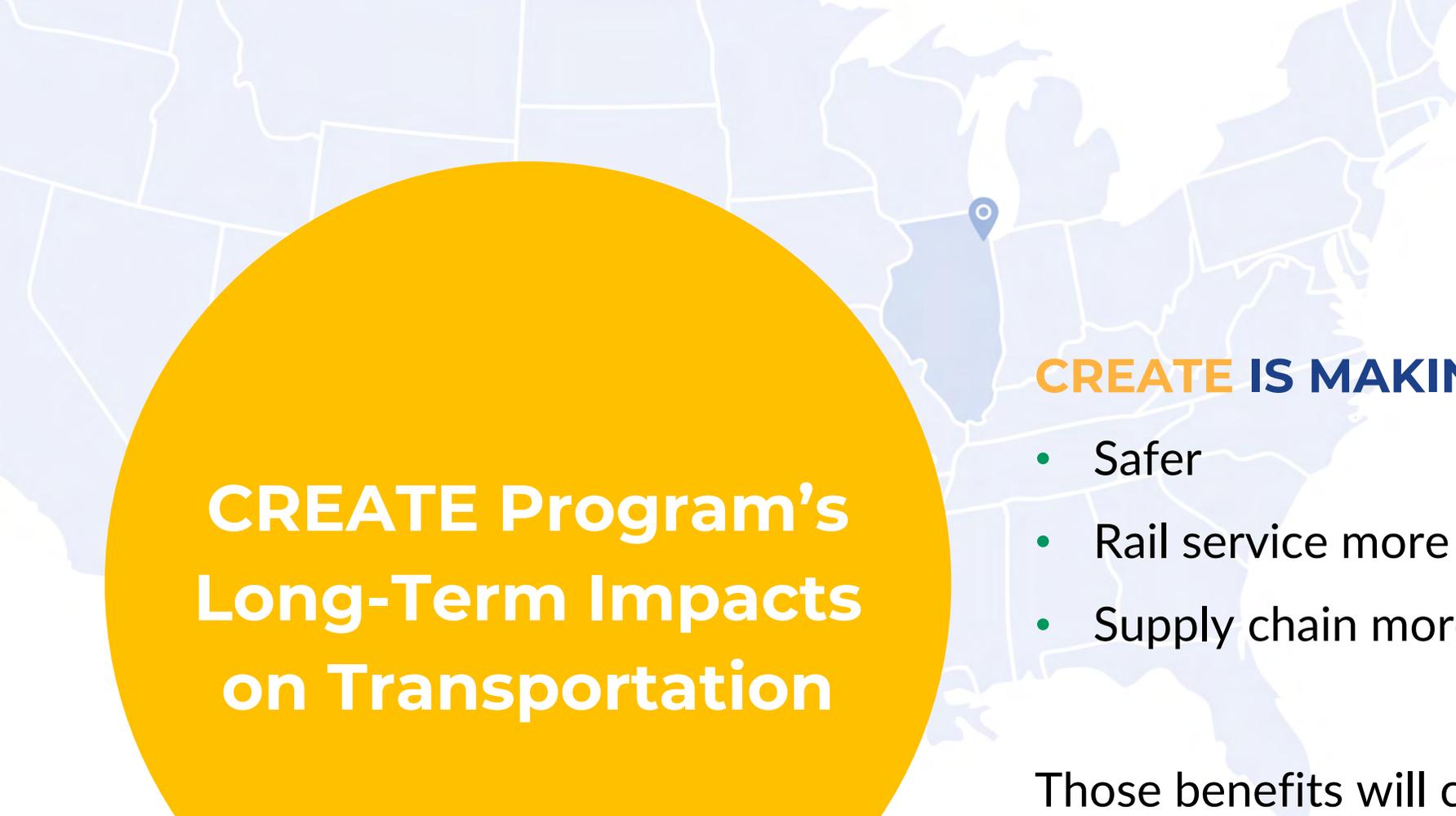


Sustaining CREATE Program Partnerships



As the nation's busiest rail hub, **Chicago** remains the heart of **America's rail network** and a lynchpin in how the industry successfully serves businesses and communities across the nation.

For over **20 years**, railroads and public partners have advanced **win-win solutions** that enhance quality of life **locally** and rail service **nationally**.



CREATE Program's Long-Term Impacts on Transportation



CREATE IS MAKING CHICAGO

- Safer
- Rail service more efficient
- Supply chain more resilient

Those benefits will continue to multiply as the years progress.

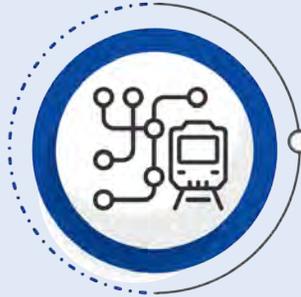
25 ROAD/
RAIL GRADE
SEPARATIONS



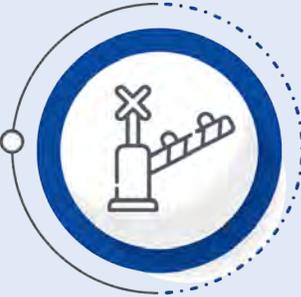
6 PASSENGER/
FREIGHT RAIL
GRADE SEPARATIONS



RAIL OPS. &
VISIBILITY
IMPROVEMENTS



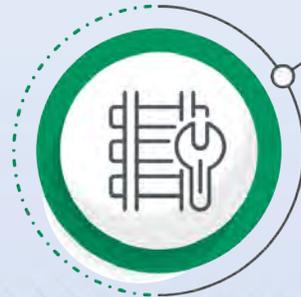
GRADE
CROSSING SAFETY
ENHANCEMENTS



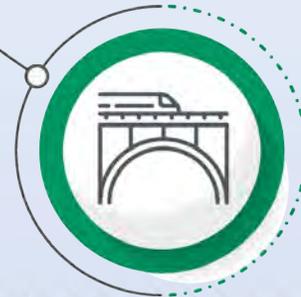
CREATE Program

70 projects

RAILROAD PROJECTS
TO IMPROVE RAIL
INFRASTRUCTURE
& UPGRADE TECH



VIADUCT
IMPROVEMENT
PROGRAM



The Benefits: Stronger Communities, Smoother Commerce



Reduce passenger train delay by more than 1.3M passenger hours annually



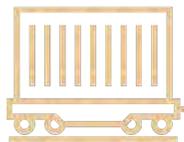
Save 92K hours of truck delay and 230K hours of motorist and bus delay



Avoid 200+ pedestrian and vehicle crashes with trains



Avoid 2.8K metric tons/year emissions from idling vehicles



Increase freight train fluidity and efficiency through greater Chicago rail network

National Model for Community Partnership

- Community Mobility Improvements
- Community Advisory Group Working committees
- Education/STEM Program
- Local Hiring
- Workforce Development
- Union Outreach Events
- DBE participation



Funding Commitments

- **\$2.5 billion** from a public and private commitments to-date.
- **\$3.3 billion needed** to complete remaining projects.

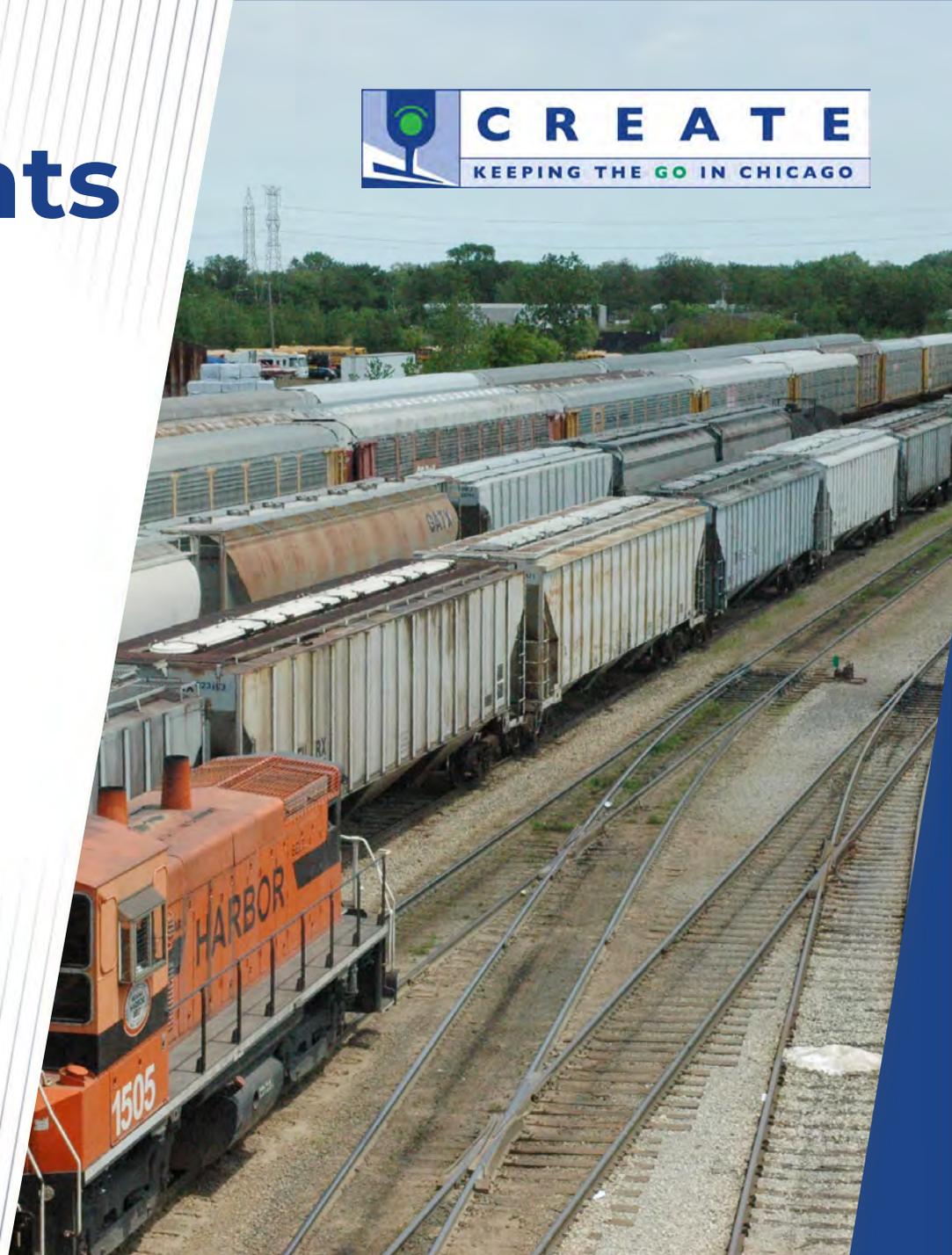
Recent
Grants
\$582M

FEDERAL \$1.05 billion

STATE \$704 million

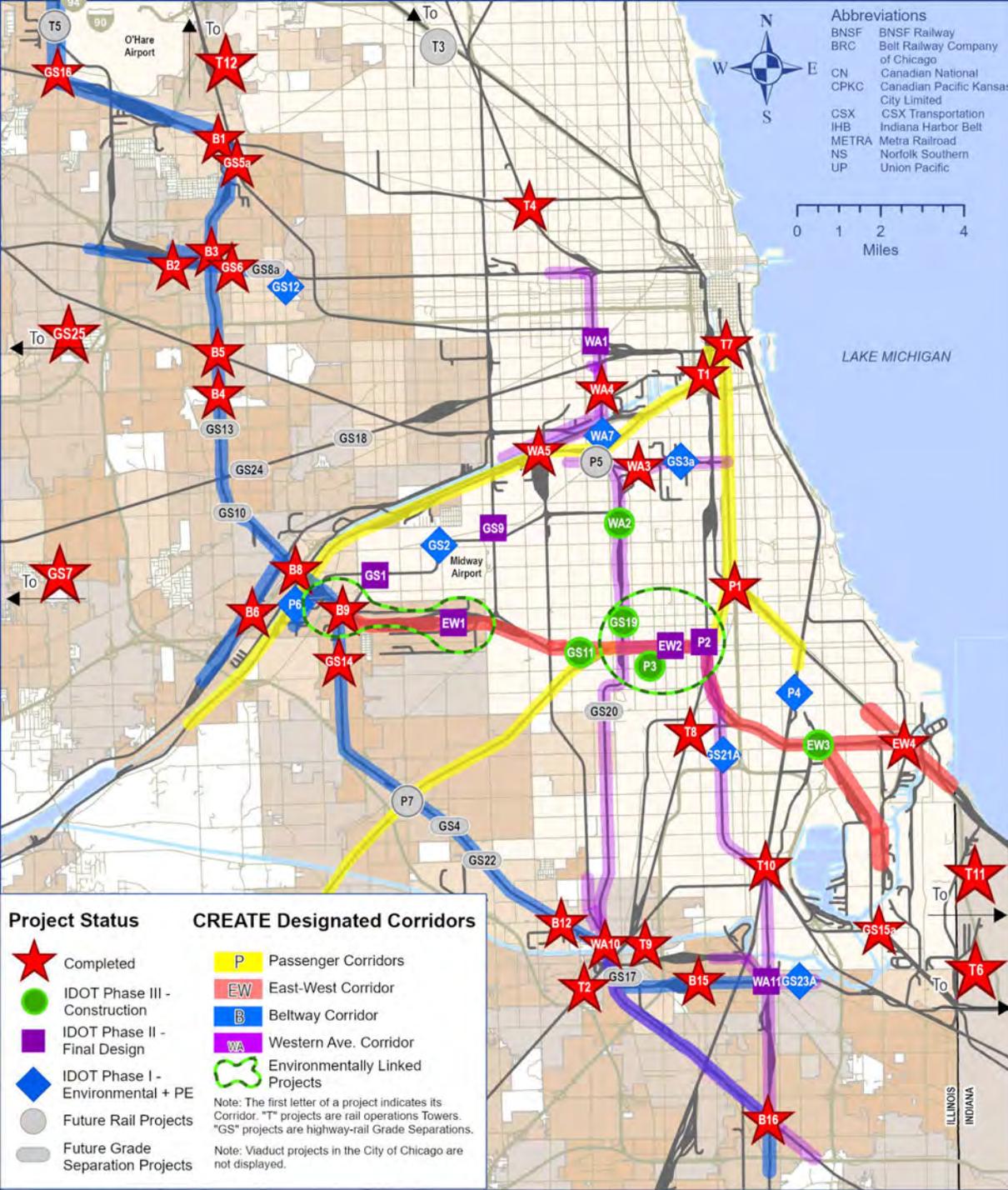
RAILROADS \$575 million

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS \$246 million





Projects



Four Corridors

P Passenger Corridors

EW East-West Corridor

BW Beltway Corridor

WA Western Ave. Corridor



70 projects: Project Status



Remaining projects



Projects in environmental review (PHASE I)



Projects in final design (PHASE II)



Projects under construction (PHASE III)

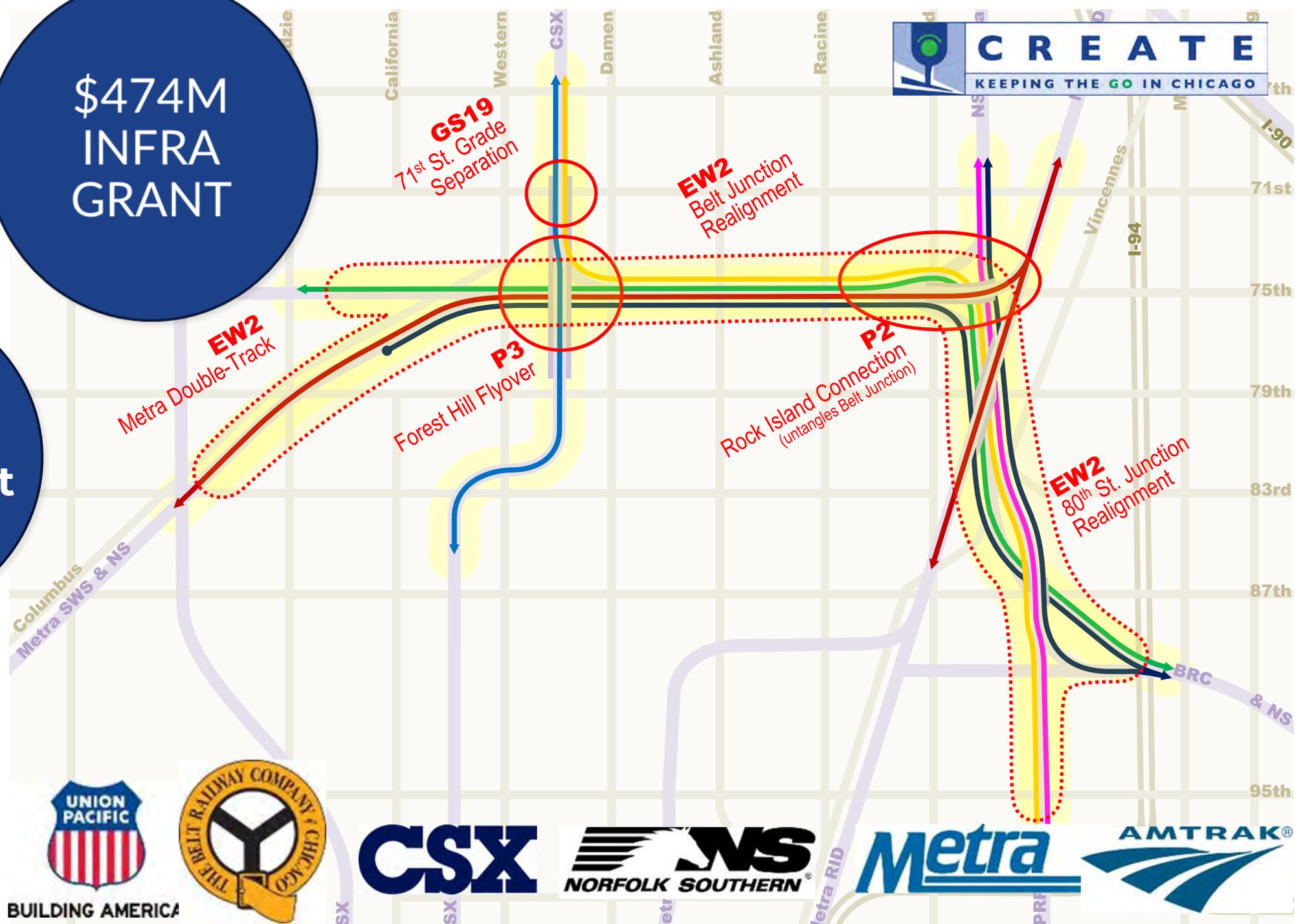


Completed projects



75th St. Corridor Improvement Project

\$474M
INFRA
GRANT





April 2025

Track construction continues with NE connection tracks built from Belt Railway of Chicago north to 69th Street across new 71st & 69th Street bridges.



P3 Ribbon Cutting



Westside Gateway (WA1) Track & Structure Upgrade

- \$170 Million Project (2022 \$70 Million INFRA Grant)
- Replaces aging viaducts (100 year +)
- Benefits local neighborhoods, Metra, UP, CSX & NS
- Community partnership to include small business participation, community mobility, workforce development and CPS education opportunities.

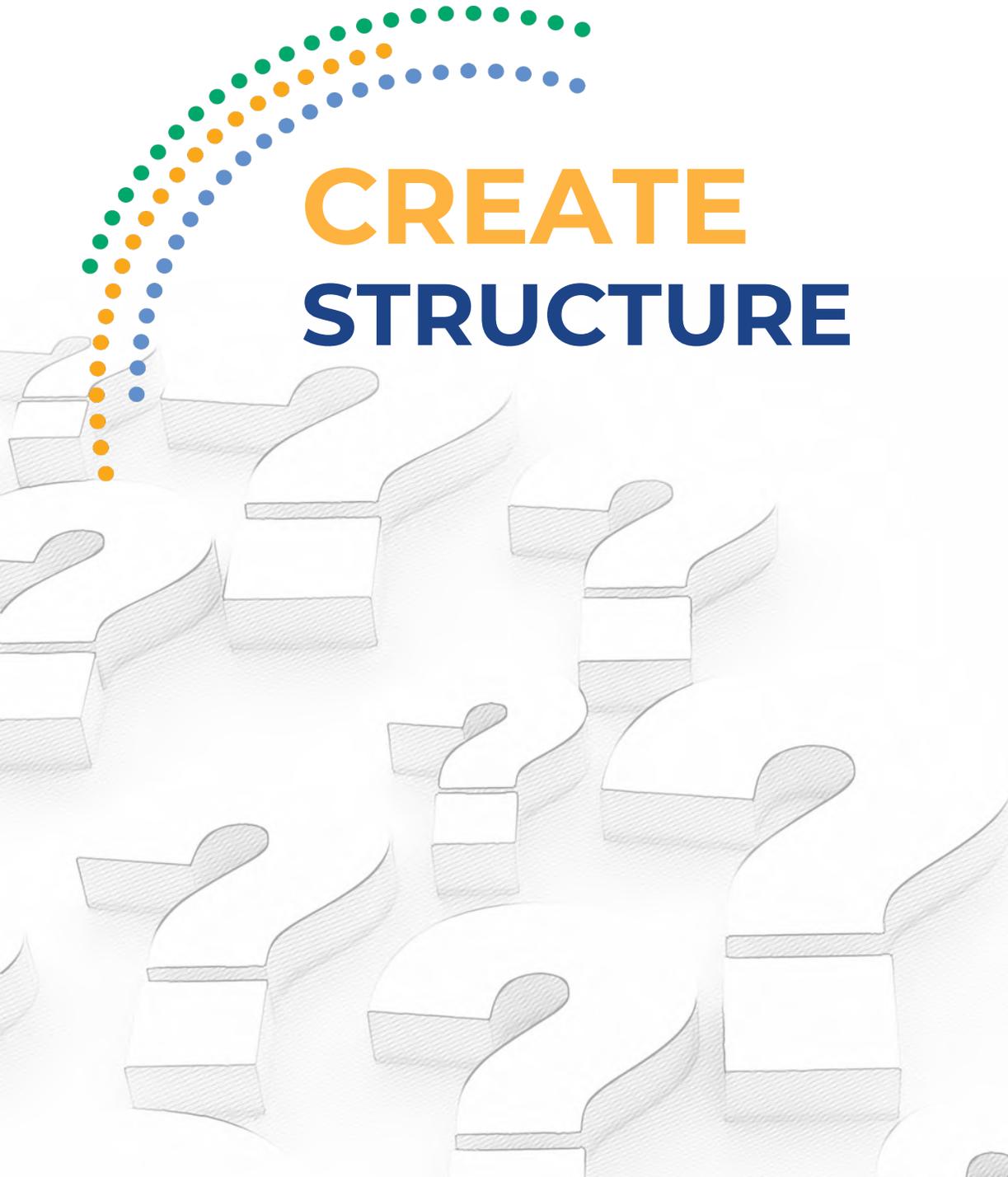




CREATE

Governance Structure

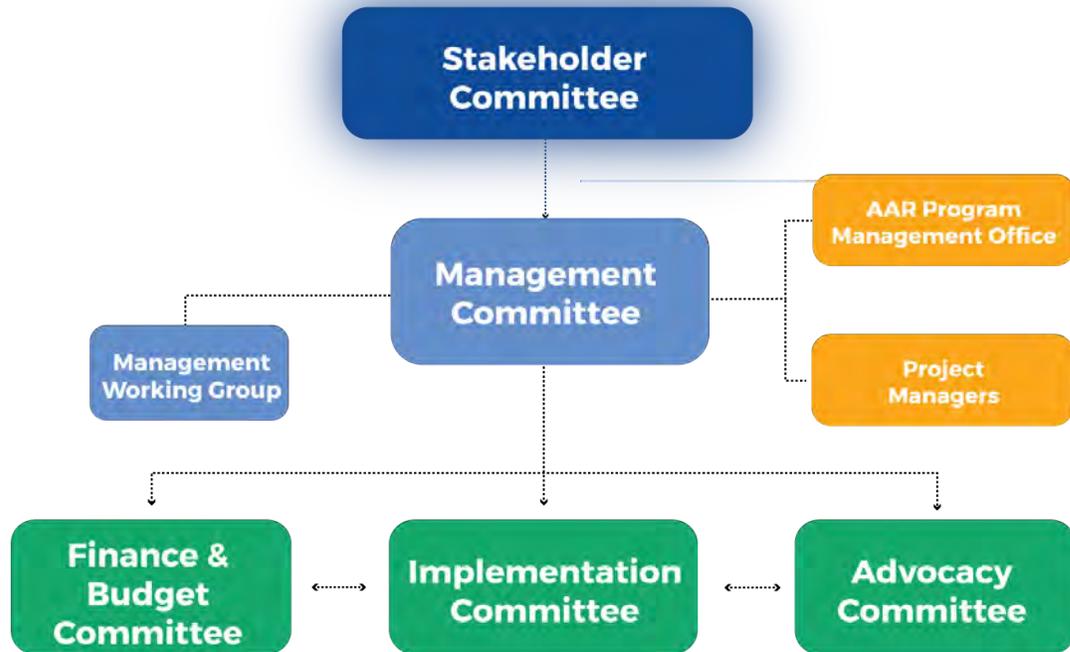




CREATE STRUCTURE

- ✓ Program organization
- ✓ Prioritization and Decision-making process
- ✓ Success factors
- ✓ MOU and rail agreements

CREATE STAKEHOLDER COMMITTEE



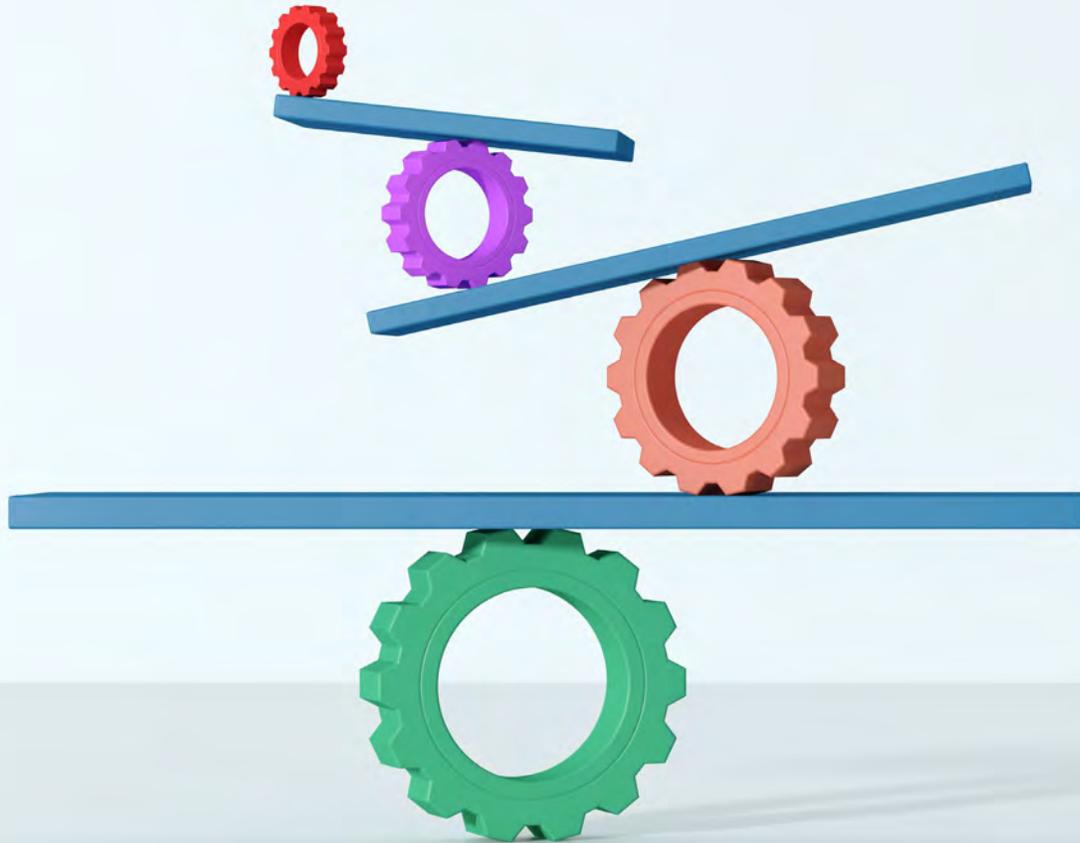
Illinois DOT: Lead public agency in the programming and grant administration of all public funds.

Illinois DOT Program Management Consultant (PMC) are extension of staff and oversee program and coordination

- ✓ Secretary of Illinois DOT
 - ✓ President of the Association of American Railroads.
 - ✓ Commissioner of the Chicago DOT
 - ✓ Superintendent of the Cook County (CCDOTH)
- Makes decisions by unanimous agreement.
 - Approves major funding and program changes.

June 2003
Agreed to by the
CREATE Stakeholders
per the Joint Statement
of Understanding

Prioritizing & Decision-Making Process



SEQUENCING CONSIDERATIONS:

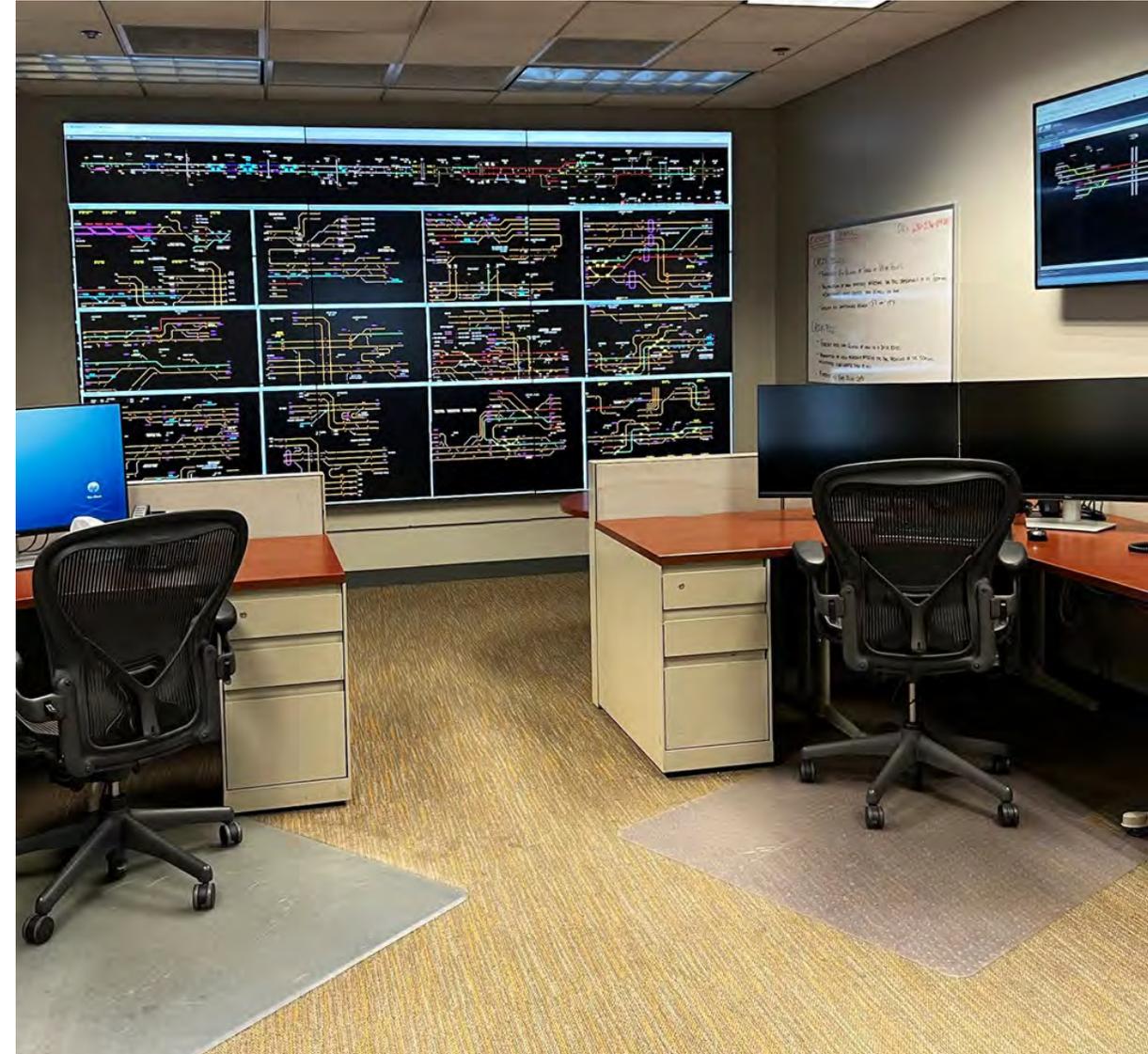
- > Operations
- > Constructability

PRIORITIZATION:

- > Funding Opportunities

CREATE Chicago Transportation Coordination Office (CTCO): *Critical Role*

- Railroad representatives = Amtrak, BNSF, BRC, CN, CPKC, CSX, IHB, Metra, NS, and UP.
- Approves project scope and estimates
- Reviews cost estimate assumptions in final design considering construction and train performance.
- Approves plan regarding train operation and performance (includes RTC modeling and grant applications).
- Approves estimates of construction and change orders.
- Coordinates with project managers, train flow during construction to minimize cost to both construction and railroad operations.
- Reviews project scope changes.





CREATE's **Success** **Factors**

Public Partners

- Collaboration and open communication
- Mutual respect
- Clear priorities and decision-making structure
- Close coordination with trust and confidence
- Continuous improvement and commitment
- Community-wide support
- Daily coordination
- Committee structure
- Institutional knowledge

CREATE's Success Factors



Private Partners

- Mutual understanding and shared needs
- Shared risks
- Integration between organizations
- Strong communication and leadership with a continued commitment
- Collegial atmosphere with trust
- Intense dedication to mission
- Being together
- On-going communication, coordination and cooperations

CREATE's Success Factors



Consulting Support

- Partnership structure
- Vested interest from partners
- Incentives for collaboration
- Shared program goals



Public-Private Partnership Model Achieves Goals



Benefits of **CREATE** Initiative

- Proven force multiplier
- Constructs large-scale projects
- Tangible, varied benefits
- First-of-its-kind collaboration
- Enhances efficiency and safety
- Improves lives in Chicago
- Keeps the region on track for the future

THANK YOU

Jennifer (Sis) Killen, P.E.
Superintendent

Cook County DOT
Jennifer.killen@cookcountyil.gov

