The Metra Fox River bridge is the only single-track segment on the Milwaukee West Line and creates a bottleneck.

The track carries Metra commuter trains and Canadian Pacific Railroad freight trains.
The project will improve train on-time performance by:

- Replacing bridge with completely new, expanded structure
- Providing a second mainline track across the Fox River
- Eliminating the bottleneck
- Reducing conflicts between commuter train and freight traffic on the corridor

Additionally, two tracks reduce the need for interruptions in train service during track maintenance. The project will also reduce impacts on water flow in the Fox River by reducing the number of piers in the river.

What is PTC?

A federally mandated advanced signal system designed to automatically stop a train before collision or derailment.
Metra is following the Federal National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process to evaluate potential impacts on physical, human, and natural environments in the project area.

The EA evaluates whether or not the project will affect:

- Existing properties, community and businesses, historic and archaeological resources, natural and biological resources, air and water quality, noise and vibration, etc.
- The EA also considers stakeholder input

Summary of key potential impacts:

- No displacements or relocations are anticipated
- After mitigation, no temporary or permanent impacts to endangered species are anticipated
- Metra will follow Best Management Practices and implement an Incidental Take Authorization to avoid/minimize impacts on spike mussels
- Reduced number of bridge piers, resulting in less impacts on water flow in the river
- Minor temporary construction impacts on local communities/businesses such as noise, dust, vibration, and temporary utility disruption
- Minor temporary impacts to water quality as work is being done to construct the bridge
- Minor impacts to Elgin Avenue grade crossing. A temporary track crossing will be provided as construction work is taking place.
- 0.97 acres of temporary construction easements from Union Pacific Railroad
- 0.33 acres of land or permanent easements acquired from Union Pacific Railroad

View the EA online at https://metrarail.com/about-metra/reports-documents/project-studies/current-project-studies/z-100-ea. Physical copies are located at the Gail Borden Public Library 2nd Floor Information Desk in Elgin and the Metra headquarters in Chicago.
Alternatives Analysis

No-Build Alternative
- Requires significant repairs
- Does not meet the project purpose and need

Preferred Build Alternative

Multiple build concepts were developed, evaluated and narrowed down to determine which best meets the project purpose and need while also minimizing environmental impacts.

- **New, modern bridge structure** with a ballasted deck and **three concrete piers** (two fewer than the existing bridge)
- Replace the existing single-track bridge with a **new double-track bridge**
- **New signal components** including a new interlocking
- **New backup generator** and switch snow-melters
Metra prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed improvements of the Milwaukee West Line Fox River Bridge in the City of Elgin. The purpose of the project is to improve the Milwaukee West Line and address deteriorating infrastructure.

The EA was made available for public review and comment on February 10, 2017 at https://metrarail.com/about-metra/reports-documents/project-studies/current-project-studies/z100-ea, the Gail Borden Public Library in Elgin, and the Metra headquarters in Chicago.

Public comments will be accepted through Thursday, March 16, 2017. Please place your comment forms in the box marked "COMMENTS" today; or fold in thirds, tape closed, place a stamp and mail. Comments can also be submitted via email to ProjectZ100NEPA@metrar.com.
Following the public review and comment period, Metra and FTA will review and respond to substantive comments. The FTA will issue a finding on the proposed project based on the significance of impacts identified. Once a final NEPA determination is issued, the design and construction of the project would move forward.

**Construction start anticipated**
3rd quarter of 2017