

# 75<sup>th</sup> Street Corridor Improvement Project

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

The 75<sup>th</sup> Street Corridor Improvement Project (CIP) is a set of interconnected projects that will reduce congestion in a rail corridor currently used by 30 Metra SouthWest Service (SWS) trains, 90 freight trains and two Amtrak trains each weekday.

The project includes a new track segment to link Metra's SWS and Rock Island Line tracks near 73<sup>rd</sup> and Wallace in Chicago, and two rail-rail grade separations to eliminate train conflicts.

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) conducted extensive outreach to gain consensus from local residents and other stakeholders and identify appropriate environmental mitigation strategies.

The 75<sup>th</sup> Street CIP has completed the environmental analysis phase and is ready to proceed into the final design phase.

The 75<sup>th</sup> Street CIP is the largest project in the Chicago Region Environmental and Transportation Efficiency (CREATE) Program, 70 projects designed to improve the efficiency of passenger and freight rail operations throughout the region.

## PROJECT BENEFITS

- **Congestion relief at Chicago Union Station (CUS):** During peak periods and service disruptions, rail traffic at CUS can become gridlocked. Moving 30 weekday SWS trains to LaSalle Street Station will release slots for additional Metra and Amtrak trains on the south side of CUS.
- **SWS expansion opportunities:** Improving infrastructure in the corridor and moving the SWS out of CUS will allow Metra to increase the number of trains serving this fast-growing line.
- **Improved service reliability:** Adding a second Metra track along Columbus Avenue and eliminating at-grade train conflicts is projected to reduce SWS delays by more than 50 percent. Passenger travel times through the corridor will be reduced by 18 percent.

## PROJECT FUNDING

No funding has been identified for the \$1 billion 75<sup>th</sup> Street CIP or for the additional \$500 million of required Metra improvements necessary to support the project.

