



Appendix G

Responses to Written Comments

July 10, 2012

Jackson Blue
P.O. Box 2918
Chicago, IL 60690

Dear Mr. Blue:

Thank you for participating in the May 17th Community Meeting for the Chicago Region Environmental and Transportation Efficiency (CREATE) Program's Grand Crossing Rail Project. The Project Team appreciates that you took the time to attend the meeting and to provide written comments on the project. Input received from you and from other meeting participants will be vital to shaping a solution for the Grand Crossing Rail Project that best balances the transportation needs of this project with the concerns and values of your community.

We have added you to the project mailing list and will provide you with periodic updates on the project, as well as notify you of future events. In the meantime, please continue to visit the project website – www.grandcrossingrail.com – on a regular basis for the most up-to-date project information. As we noted at the Community Meeting, your comments are welcome at any time throughout the life of the project and can be submitted directly through the project website at <http://grandcrossingrail.com/contact.php>, or via the mailing or email address at the bottom of this page. If you have questions or would like to discuss the project, please contact Tony Pakeltis, Parsons Project Manager, at (312) 930-5268 or info@grandcrossingrail.com.

Thank you once again for your interest in the project. We look forward to your continued participation.

Very truly yours,



Danielle E. Stewart, P.E.
CREATE Section Chief
Illinois Department of Transportation
www.createprogram.org

July 10, 2012

Abena Vickie Hurston
6908 S. Union Avenue, Unit 2
Chicago, IL 60621

Dear Ms. Hurston:

Thank you for participating in the May 17th Community Meeting for the Chicago Region Environmental and Transportation Efficiency (CREATE) Program's Grand Crossing Rail Project. The Project Team appreciates that you took the time to attend the meeting and to provide written comments on the project. Input received from you and from other meeting participants will be vital to shaping a solution for the Grand Crossing Rail Project that best balances the transportation needs of this project with the concerns and values of your community.

Based on input received at this Community Meeting and earlier public meetings, as well as through our coordination with the project's Community Advisory Group and other stakeholders, the Project Team is now beginning to develop the project's Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The Draft EIS will provide more detailed information on the effects of each alternative on the community, including any potential residential or commercial displacements, as well as any noise, air quality, and safety impacts that may result from one or more of the alternatives. The Draft EIS will be made available to the public when it is completed in early 2013, and Public Hearings will be held after the Draft EIS has been circulated.

We have added you to the project mailing list and will provide you with periodic updates on the project, as well as notify you of future events. In the meantime, please continue to visit the project website – www.grandcrossingrail.com – on a regular basis for the most up-to-date project information. As we noted at the Community Meeting, your comments are welcome at any time throughout the life of the project and can be submitted directly through the project website at <http://grandcrossingrail.com/contact.php>, or via the mailing or email address at the bottom of this page. If you have questions or would like to discuss the project, please contact Tony Pakeltis, Parsons Project Manager, at (312) 930-5268 or info@grandcrossingrail.com.

Abena Vickie Hurston
July 10, 2012

Page 2 of 2

Thank you once again for your interest in the project. We look forward to your continued participation.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Danielle Stewart".

Danielle E. Stewart, P.E.
CREATE Section Chief
Illinois Department of Transportation
www.createprogram.org

July 10, 2012

David Welch
1645 E. 83rd Place
Chicago, IL 60617

Dear Mr. Welch:

Thank you for participating in the May 17th Community Meeting for the Chicago Region Environmental and Transportation Efficiency (CREATE) Program's Grand Crossing Rail Project. The Project Team appreciates that you took the time to attend the meeting and to provide written comments on the project. Input received from you and from other meeting participants will be vital to shaping a solution for the Grand Crossing Rail Project that best balances the transportation needs of this project with the concerns and values of your community.

Based on input received at this Community Meeting and earlier public meetings, as well as through our coordination with the project's Community Advisory Group and other stakeholders, the Project Team is now beginning to develop the project's Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The Draft EIS will provide more detailed information on the effects of each alternative, including how the potential lowering or closing 75th Street, 76th Street, and/or Greenwood Avenue would affect the community, in terms of vehicular, pedestrian, and bicycle access and travel patterns. Potential drainage issues will also be identified as part of this project. The Draft EIS will be made available to the public when it is completed in early 2013, and Public Hearings will be held after the Draft EIS is circulated.

Thank you for your suggestion that we advertise our meetings via a radio public service announcement; we will investigate the possibility of radio advertisements for future meetings. For the May 17th Community Meeting, the Project Team used a range of strategies to notify the public about the meeting, including postcards, door hangers, newspaper advertisements, email blasts, and website postings, and through coordination with elected officials and the project's Community Advisory Group. These efforts are detailed in the *Purpose and Need Community Meeting Summary Report*, which is available on the project website at http://grandcrossingrail.com/project_resources.html. Based on the mailing address you provided on the sign-in sheet and on your comment form,

your home is outside of the study area, which is why you did not receive a postcard or door hanger advertising the May 17th Community Meeting.

Now that we have your address, we have added you to the project mailing list and will provide you with periodic updates on the project, as well as notify you of future events. In the meantime, please continue to visit the project website – **www.grandcrossingrail.com** – on a regular basis for the most up-to-date project information. As we noted at the Community Meeting, your comments are welcome at any time throughout the life of the project and can be submitted directly through the project website at **<http://grandcrossingrail.com/contact.php>**, or via the mailing or email address at the bottom of this page. If you have questions or would like to discuss the project, please contact Tony Pakeltis, Parsons Project Manager, at (312) 930-5268 or info@grandcrossingrail.com.

Thank you once again for your interest in the project. We look forward to your continued participation.

Very truly yours,



Danielle E. Stewart, P.E.
CREATE Section Chief
Illinois Department of Transportation
www.createprogram.org

July 10, 2012

Edgar Lee Jeffries
6402 S. Peoria Street, Unit 1S
Chicago, IL 60621

Dear Mr. Jeffries:

Thank you for participating in the May 17th Community Meeting for the Chicago Region Environmental and Transportation Efficiency (CREATE) Program's Grand Crossing Rail Project. The Project Team appreciates that you took the time to attend the meeting and to provide written comments on the project. Input received from you and from other meeting participants will be vital to shaping a solution for the Grand Crossing Rail Project that best balances the transportation needs of this project with the concerns and values of your community.

Based on input received at this Community Meeting and earlier public meetings, as well as through our coordination with the project's Community Advisory Group and other stakeholders, the Project Team is now beginning to develop the project's Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The Draft EIS will provide more detailed information on the effects of each alternative on the community, including any potential residential or commercial displacements, as well as air quality impacts that may result from one or more of the alternatives during and/or after construction. Measures to avoid, minimize, or mitigate any negative effects will be incorporated into the design of the project as part of the EIS process. The Draft EIS will be made available to the public when it is completed in early 2013, and Public Hearings will be held after the Draft EIS is circulated.

In terms of training and job opportunities related to the Grand Crossing Rail Project, we are still in the early stages of the project, several years away from any hiring for construction-related positions. In the meantime, individuals interested in pursuing opportunities for training and job placement in the construction trades on CREATE-related work and other IDOT projects in the region are encouraged to contact Shoshiwa Mabina, director of IDOT's Highway Construction Careers Training Program (HCCTP) at Dawson Technical Institute, part of Kennedy King College. HCCTP was initiated by IDOT in 2009 in an effort to increase access to highway construction jobs for minorities, women, and disadvantaged individuals. Ex-offenders are eligible for the program. HCCTP students

receive intensive training in highway construction-related skills, such as mathematics for the trades, job site readiness, carpentry, concrete flatwork, blueprint reading, forklift operation, OSHA 10 safety training, and other skills to improve individuals' employability in Illinois' highway construction industry, including the CREATE Program. Ms. Mabina can be reached at 773-451-2082 or smabina@ccc.edu.

We have added you to the project mailing list and will provide you with periodic updates on the project, as well as notify you of future events. In the meantime, please continue to visit the project website – www.grandcrossingrail.com – on a regular basis for the most up-to-date project information. As we noted at the Community Meeting, your comments are welcome at any time throughout the life of the project and can be submitted directly through the project website at <http://grandcrossingrail.com/contact.php>, or via the mailing or email address at the bottom of this page. If you have questions or would like to discuss the project, please contact Tony Pakeltis, Parsons Project Manager, at (312) 930-5268 or info@grandcrossingrail.com.

Thank you once again for your interest in the project. We look forward to your continued participation.

Very truly yours,



Danielle E. Stewart, P.E.
CREATE Section Chief
Illinois Department of Transportation
www.createprogram.org

July 10, 2012

Crystal King-Smith
7750 S. Langley Avenue
Chicago, IL 60621

Dear Ms. King-Smith:

Thank you for participating in the May 17th Community Meeting for the Chicago Region Environmental and Transportation Efficiency (CREATE) Program's Grand Crossing Rail Project. The Project Team appreciates that you took the time to attend the meeting and to provide written comments on the project. Input received from you and from other meeting participants will be vital to shaping a solution for the Grand Crossing Rail Project that best balances the transportation needs of this project with the concerns and values of your community.

Based on input received at this Community Meeting and earlier public meetings, as well as through our coordination with the project's Community Advisory Group and other stakeholders, the Project Team is now beginning to develop the project's Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The Draft EIS will provide more detailed information on the effects of each alternative on the community, both during and after construction. The Draft EIS will be made available to the public when it is completed in early 2013, and Public Hearings will be held after the Draft EIS is circulated.

We agree with you whole-heartedly on the importance of keeping the community informed about the project, not only by providing fair and open access to project meetings and relevant information, but also by encouraging discussion between the Project Team and community members throughout the life of the project. As we noted at the Community Meeting, comments are welcome at any time and can be submitted directly through the project website at <http://grandcrossingrail.com/contact.php>, or via the mailing or email address at the bottom of this page. Likewise, the Project Team is available to discuss the project or answer any additional questions you may have; please contact Tony Pakeltis, Parsons Project Manager, at (312) 930-5268 or info@grandcrossingrail.com.

You remain on the project mailing list and will continue to receive periodic updates and notifications of future events. You will also receive an invitation to our next Community

Advisory Group meeting, which will be held this summer and will focus on identifying a Preferred Alternative for the project. In the meantime, please continue to visit the project website – www.grandcrossingrail.com – on a regular basis for the most up-to-date project information.

Thank you once again for your interest in the project. We look forward to your continued participation.

Very truly yours,



Danielle E. Stewart, P.E.
CREATE Section Chief
Illinois Department of Transportation
www.createprogram.org

July 10, 2012

Tony Anthony Adams Johnson
3351 W. 21st Street
Chicago, IL 60623

Dear Mr. Johnson:

Thank you for participating in the May 17th Community Meeting for the Chicago Region Environmental and Transportation Efficiency (CREATE) Program's Grand Crossing Rail Project. The Project Team appreciates that you took the time to attend the meeting and to provide written comments on the project. Input received from you and from other meeting participants will be vital to shaping a solution for the Grand Crossing Rail Project that best balances the transportation needs of this project with the concerns and values of your community.

You remain on the project mailing list and will continue to receive periodic updates and notifications of future events. In the meantime, please continue to visit the project website – www.grandcrossingrail.com – on a regular basis for the most up-to-date project information. As we noted at the Community Meeting, your comments are welcome at any time throughout the life of the project and can be submitted directly through the project website at <http://grandcrossingrail.com/contact.php>, or via the mailing or email address at the bottom of this page. If you have questions or would like to discuss the project, please contact Tony Pakeltis, Parsons Project Manager, at (312) 930-5268 or info@grandcrossingrail.com.

Thank you once again for your interest in the project. We look forward to your continued participation.

Very truly yours,



Danielle E. Stewart, P.E.
CREATE Section Chief
Illinois Department of Transportation
www.createprogram.org

July 30, 2012

Isaac Perkins
8346 S. Drexel Avenue
Chicago, IL 60619

Dear Mr. Perkins:

Thank you for your interest in the Chicago Region Environmental and Transportation Efficiency (CREATE) Program's Grand Crossing Rail Project. The Project Team appreciates that you took the time to visit our website to find out more about the project.

Based on input received at various community meetings held this Spring, as well as through our coordination with the project's Community Advisory Group and other stakeholders, the Project Team is now developing the project's Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The Draft EIS will provide more detailed information on the effects of each alternative, including how the potential lowering or closing of 75th Street, 76th Street, and/or Greenwood Avenue would affect the community, in terms of both drainage issues and vehicular and pedestrian circulation. The Draft EIS will be made available to the public when it is completed in early 2013, and Public Hearings will be held after the Draft EIS has been issued for review and comment. We have noted your preference for lowering, rather than closing, 75th and 76th Streets and will incorporate your input into the Draft EIS.

We have added you to the project mailing list and will provide you with periodic updates on the project, as well as notify you of future events. In the meantime, please continue to visit the project website – www.grandcrossingrail.com – on a regular basis for the most up-to-date project information. Your comments are welcome at any time during the project and can be submitted directly through the project website at <http://grandcrossingrail.com/contact.php>, or via the mailing or email address at the bottom of this page. If you have questions or would like to discuss the project, please contact Tony Pakeltis, Parsons Project Manager, at (312) 930-5268 or info@grandcrossingrail.com.

Isaac Perkins
July 30, 2012

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Thank you once again for your interest in the project. We look forward to your continued participation.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Danielle Stewart".

Danielle E. Stewart, P.E.
CREATE Section Chief
Illinois Department of Transportation
www.createprogram.org

July 30, 2012

CeCe Edwards
P.O. Box 6495
Chicago, IL 60680

Dear Ms. Edwards:

Thank you for participating in the May 17, 2012 Community Meeting for the Chicago Region Environmental and Transportation Efficiency (CREATE) Program's Grand Crossing Rail Project. The Project Team appreciates that you took the time to attend the meeting and to provide written comments on the project. Input received from you and from other meeting participants will be vital to shaping a solution for the Grand Crossing Rail Project that best balances the transportation needs of this project with the concerns and values of the community.

We appreciate your thoughtful input on the project and look forward to working with you as we move forward with the alternatives development and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process. As you know, we are still in the early stages of the project, several years away from any hiring for construction-related positions. When the time comes to award project-related contracts, all applicable federal and state regulations related to minority hiring will be adhered to. In the meantime, individuals interested in pursuing opportunities for training and job placement in the construction trades on CREATE-related work and other Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) projects in the region are encouraged to contact Shoshiwa Mabina, director of IDOT's Highway Construction Careers Training Program (HCCTP) at Dawson Technical Institute, part of Kennedy King College. Ms. Mabina can be reached at 773-451-2082 or smabina@ccc.edu. A fact sheet providing additional information on CREATE-related employment opportunities – including those with the railroads – is available on the project website at http://grandcrossingrail.com/project_resources.html.

As a Community Advisory Group member and community leader, the Project Team will continue to rely on you to help shape the content and outcome of this important study. We hope to see you at our next round of Community Advisory Group meetings, which will be held later this summer. As always, please feel free to contact Tony Pakeltis, Parsons Project Manager, at (312) 930-5268 or info@grandcrossingrail.com if you would like to discuss anything in the meantime.

We thank you once again for your interest in the project and look forward to your continued participation.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Danielle Stewart".

Danielle E. Stewart, P.E.
CREATE Section Chief
Illinois Department of Transportation
www.createprogram.org

July 30, 2012

Barry Kelley
barrykvs@gmail.com

Dear Mr. Kelley:

Thank you for your continued interest in the Chicago Region Environmental and Transportation Efficiency (CREATE) Program's Grand Crossing Rail Project. The Project Team appreciates that you took the time to visit our website and provide written comments on the project.

Although we are still in the early stages of the project, several years away from any hiring for construction-related positions, individuals interested in pursuing opportunities for training and job placement in the construction trades on CREATE-related work and other Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) projects are encouraged to contact Shoshiwa Mabina, director of IDOT's Highway Construction Careers Training Program (HCCTP) at Dawson Technical Institute, part of Kennedy King College. HCCTP was initiated by IDOT in 2009 in an effort to increase access to highway construction jobs for minorities, women, and disadvantaged individuals. HCCTP students receive intensive training in highway construction-related skills, such as mathematics for the trades, job site readiness, carpentry, concrete flatwork, blueprint reading, forklift operation, OSHA 10-hour safety training, and other skills to improve individuals' employability in Illinois' highway construction industry, including the CREATE Program. Ms. Mabina can guide you through the application process and answer any questions you may have about job training and experience requirements. She can be reached at 773-451-2082 or smabina@ccc.edu.

There are minority- and women-owned business goals for every project using federal funds. However, the federal process will not allow IDOT to include any provisions requiring contractors to hire individuals who live in the project study area.

A fact sheet providing additional information on CREATE-related employment opportunities – including those with the railroads – is available on the project website at http://grandcrossingrail.com/project_resources.html.

As a Community Advisory Group member and community leader, the Project Team will continue to rely on you to help shape the content and outcome of this important study. We hope to see you at our next round of Community Advisory Group meetings, which will be held later this summer. As always, please feel free to contact Tony Pakeltis, Parsons

Barry Kelley
July 30, 2012

Page 2 of 2

Project Manager, at (312) 930-5268 or info@grandcrossingrail.com if you would like to discuss anything in the meantime.

Thank you once again for your interest in the project. We look forward to your continued participation.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Danielle Stewart".

Danielle E. Stewart, P.E.
CREATE Section Chief
Illinois Department of Transportation
www.createprogram.org

July 30, 2012

Jamie L. Woods
513 W. 62nd Street
Chicago, IL 60621
j.p.woods6265@sbcglobal.net

Dear Mr. Woods:

Thank you for your interest in the Chicago Region Environmental and Transportation Efficiency (CREATE) Program's Grand Crossing Rail Project. The Project Team appreciates that you took the time to visit our website to find out more about the project.

Although we are still in the early stages of the project, several years away from any hiring for construction-related positions, individuals interested in pursuing opportunities for training and job placement in the construction trades on CREATE-related work and other Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) projects in the region are encouraged to contact Shoshiwa Mabina, director of IDOT's Highway Construction Careers Training Program (HCCTP) at Dawson Technical Institute, part of Kennedy King College. HCCTP was initiated by IDOT in 2009 in an effort to increase access to highway construction jobs for minorities, women, and disadvantaged individuals. HCCTP students receive intensive training in highway construction-related skills, such as mathematics for the trades, job site readiness, carpentry, concrete flatwork, blueprint reading, forklift operation, OSHA 10-hour safety training, and other skills to improve individuals' employability in Illinois' highway construction industry, including the CREATE Program. Ms. Mabina can guide you through the application process and answer any questions you may have about job training and experience requirements. She can be reached at 773-451-2082 or smabina@ccc.edu.

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Thank you once again for your interest in the project. We look forward to your continued participation.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Danielle Stewart".

Danielle E. Stewart, P.E.
CREATE Section Chief
Illinois Department of Transportation
www.createprogram.org

June 27, 2012

Naomi Davis
Blacks in Green
Box 490078
Chicago, IL 60649

Dear Ms. Davis:

Thank you for participating in the May 17th Community Meeting for the Chicago Region Environmental and Transportation Efficiency (CREATE) Program's Grand Crossing Rail Project. The Project Team appreciates that you took the time to attend the meeting and to provide written comments on the project. Input received from you and from other meeting participants will be vital to shaping a solution for the Grand Crossing Rail Project that best balances the transportation needs of this project with the concerns and values of your community.

We appreciate your thoughtful input on ways the Project Team can continue to improve our community outreach efforts. Our plan moving forward is to hold two sets of Community Advisory Group meetings – one set this summer focused on the Preferred Alternative, and one set in early 2013 to provide a status update on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in advance of the Draft EIS being published. The Draft EIS should be published early next year with the public hearing tentatively scheduled for March 2013. In addition to these sessions with the full Community Advisory Group, we will participate in meetings with specific community organizations or groups of citizens as needed or requested. We believe this is a more flexible and individualized approach than committing to a rigid schedule of bi-monthly meetings with the larger group, which may not provide the right venue to fully address the issues and needs particular to specific groups. Our goal is to coordinate with the full range of community stakeholders and be as open and responsive as we can.

We would be happy to discuss our community outreach approach with you further at your convenience. Likewise, while we will not be able to add Community Liaison or Railroad Hiring and Contracting Liaison to the Project Team, we would be interested in hearing other suggestions you have for broadening our outreach campaign and improving the effectiveness of our communication strategies. Please contact Tony Pakeltis, Parsons Project Manager, at (312) 930-5268 or info@grandcrossingrail.com if you would like to set up a time to talk.

In the meantime, we have reviewed the project website and confirmed that all content is current. Meeting summaries and other materials from our March 13th and 14th Community Advisory Group meetings and our March 26th and 28th Public Meetings have now been posted on the website, as have the presentation, exhibits, and handouts from the May 17th Community Meeting at New Beginnings Church. We received the transcript of the Community Meeting from our court reporter on June 13th; it will be added to the project website soon. A Community Meeting Summary and the Purpose and Need Statement will also be posted when they are complete.

As a Community Advisory Group member and community leader, the Project Team will continue to rely on you to help shape the content and outcome of this important study. We thank you once again for your interest in the project and look forward to your continued participation.

Very truly yours,



Danielle E. Stewart, P.E.
CREATE Section Chief
Illinois Department of Transportation
www.createprogram.org