

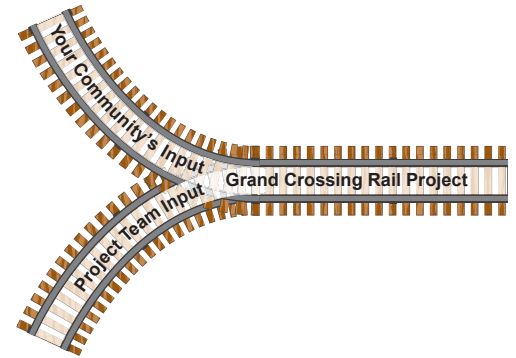
The Grand Crossing Rail Project will reduce rail congestion on Chicago's South Side, particularly in the Englewood and Greater Grand Crossing neighborhoods. The project is one component of a region-wide program of railroad-related infrastructure improvements called CREATE.

Community Involvement and Context Sensitive Solutions

The Grand Crossing Rail Project Team is committed to working with the community to find transportation solutions that exist in coordination with the surrounding neighborhoods.

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) – along with our partners at the Association of American Railroads (AAR) and the Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT) – are using the Context Sensitive Solutions process to develop the Grand Crossing Rail Project Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). This process engages all project stakeholders, including neighborhood residents, elected officials, community and business leaders, interest groups, other government agencies, and anybody who interacts with the railroads and roadways in the project study area. The intent is to identify and have a clear understanding of the community's transportation concerns.

Your vital input will help shape 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.



Community Involvement Activities

Here are some of the community involvement activities that will occur in the months and years ahead:

Community Research: To better understand the neighborhoods in the study area, we are assessing the physical condition of the train tracks and roads in the area and identifying community resources like schools, police and fire stations, hospitals, parks, businesses, and churches.

Meetings with elected officials and community leaders: Throughout the project, we will continue to meet with aldermen, state legislators, and community leaders to share information and incorporate their concerns. These leaders also will help us identify community issues related to the project.

Community Advisory Groups: Two Community Advisory Groups have been formed: one for neighborhoods in the northern part of the Grand Crossing Rail Project study area and one for those in the southern part. These groups of community leaders and residents will continue to meet periodically to discuss the community's thoughts and ideas about the project.



Public Meetings: Prior to key project milestones, public meetings will be held. During these meetings, the public will have an opportunity to learn about the Grand Crossing Rail Project, speak with project representatives, and provide their input on the project.

Public Hearing: A public hearing will be held when the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is published. This meeting will be similar to previous public meetings, but will have a more formal process for recording comments and discussion.

Public Comment: Throughout the project, all comments are encouraged and welcomed. At public meetings, there will be comment sheets available for attendees to fill out there or to mail back to the Project Team. The public can also send comments to the email listed below. When the Draft EIS is published, a formal 45-day public comment period will be held, which will include the public hearing.

Newsletters, Fact Sheets, and Brochures: Printed materials will continue to be provided to the public that will explain the Grand Crossing Rail Project and describe how to get involved.

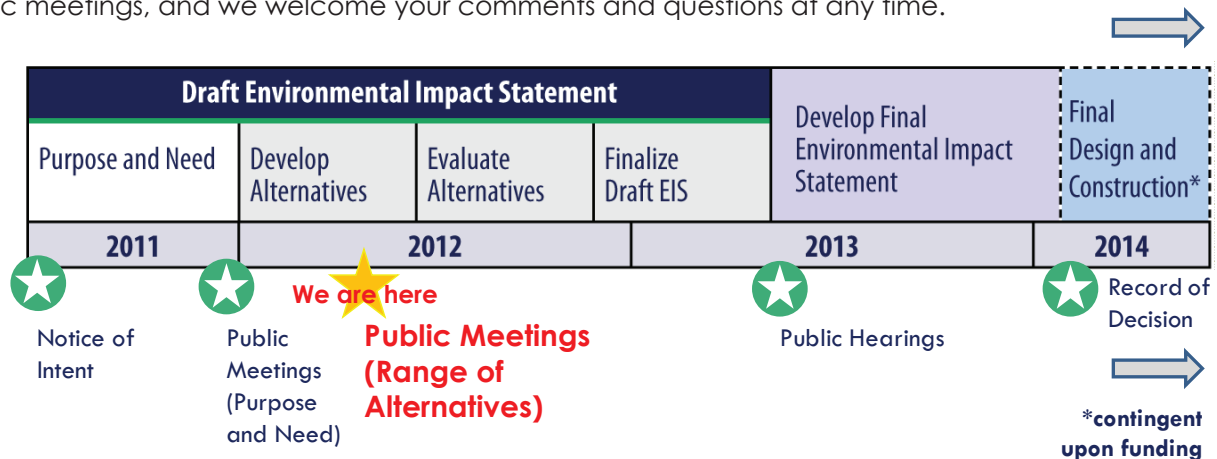
Stakeholder Involvement Plan

The Project Team developed a Stakeholder Involvement Plan for the Grand Crossing Rail Project as a guide for communication and outreach throughout the project. It is a dynamic document that will be updated periodically to reflect the evolving communications needs of stakeholders and the Project Team. The Stakeholder Involvement Plan can be found on the project website at http://grandcrossingrail.com/project_resources.html.

How You Can Help

Throughout the project, we need you to help us identify issues and better understand the concerns and values of your community. Please write or email the Project Team at the address below.

Thank you for your interest in the Grand Crossing Rail Project. We look forward to seeing you at future public meetings, and we welcome your comments and questions at any time.



CONTACT US

If you have questions or need additional information regarding the Grand Crossing Rail Project, please contact:

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