



## Another CREATE Program Western Avenue Corridor Project Complete

**May 2019** - BNSF Railway along with the CREATE partners are pleased to announce the completion of the [BNSF Connection project \(WA4\)](#). This project eliminates train delays by adding new tracks and creating a new direct connection between BNSF's Corwith and Cicero Yards. It also provides new connections between the CN Freeport Subdivision and the Western Avenue Corridor along which the BNSF, Norfolk Southern, CSX and Union Pacific Railroads operate. Before this project, freight trains had to travel longer and more indirect routings to make these connections.

The BNSF Connection project also rehabilitated six bridges over city streets and the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal, installed crossover switches and centralized traffic control signalization. These improvements directly benefit the Chicago communities of Douglas Park, South Lawndale, Little Village and Brighton Park by renewing old railroad viaduct structures and reducing train idling and the time it takes for trains to pass by. The improvements also provide network benefits for freight and commuter train operations throughout the Chicago region by allowing trains going to and from many other lines to pass through this corridor with less delay.

With the completion of this BNSF Connection project, half of the eight CREATE projects along the Western Avenue Corridor are now in service.

"As the nation's rail hub, it's important that Chicago maintains a world class railroad system designed to meet the growing demands of both freight and passenger rail," said Jason Jenkins, BNSF Railway's Chicago Division General Manager. "Completing CREATE's Western Avenue Corridor Project will support more fluid railroad operations."



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The Chicago Region Environmental and Transportation Efficiency (CREATE) Program is a first-of-its-kind partnership between the U.S. Department of Transportation, the State of Illinois, Cook County, City of Chicago, Metra, Amtrak and the nation's largest freight railroads. A project of national significance, CREATE will invest billions in critically needed improvements to increase the efficiency of the region's passenger and freight rail infrastructure and enhance the quality of life for Chicago-area residents.

For more information, visit [www.createprogram.org](http://www.createprogram.org).