



CREATE Project Breaks Ground in Franklin Park and Bensenville

Franklin Park, IL - CREATE began its 34th project to improve safety and keep Metra trains and freight trains moving through our region more efficiently. Metra and Canadian Pacific Railway (CP) will upgrade signals and add several crossover tracks, known as [CREATE Project B1](#). Currently freight trains pass through the Bensenville Yard in Franklin Park to access Indiana Harbor Belt (IHB) mainline tracks. With this improvement, 12 daily freight trains will bypass the CP Bensenville Yard on existing Metra tracks. This reduces the potential for freight train delay to 58 daily Metra trains and improves Metra flexibility at the Franklin Park Station. In addition, the project will reduce delays and congestion and increase safety for pedestrians and motorists at nearby grade crossings as trains move through the region.

Metra and CP will install five crossovers and associated signaling on the Metra tracks serving the Metra Milwaukee District West Line. In addition, another crossover will be installed between the IHB and Canadian National Railway (CN) tracks between Chestnut Avenue and Grand Avenue. A crossover is a pair of switches that connects two parallel rail tracks, allowing a train on one track to cross over to the other.

"Metra, as a CREATE partner, is excited to lead this project to improve movement for our passengers," noted Don Orseno, Executive Director/CEO, Metra. "We have always been committed to working with our freight partners to improve the movement of trains in our region."

The schedule calls for completing construction of the project in 2019.



Proposed site of Project B1 at Metra's Franklin Park Station, looking northwest.

The [CREATE Program](#) is a first-of-its-kind public-private partnership to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of freight, commuter and intercity rail, while improving the entire transportation network throughout the region. The \$4.4 billion program comprises 70 rail and highway improvements, 29 of which are complete. The program partners include the Illinois Department of Transportation, the U.S. Department of Transportation, the Chicago Department of Transportation, Cook County as well as the freight and passenger railroads.