



# Renaissance in Rail Travel: New Opportunities for Chicago

Chicago Architecture Foundation  
October 28, 2009

**Presented by:**

**Luann Hamilton, Deputy Commissioner  
Chicago Department of Transportation**





## **CREATE PROGRAM - Local and Regional Benefits**

**CREATE will bring the Chicago region billions of dollars in societal, economic and job-related benefits.**

- Less Congestion, fewer delays
- Increased safety
- Improved passenger and commuter rail service
- Cleaner air
- Increased lakefront land use
- A stronger economy



# Passenger Rail

## Metra

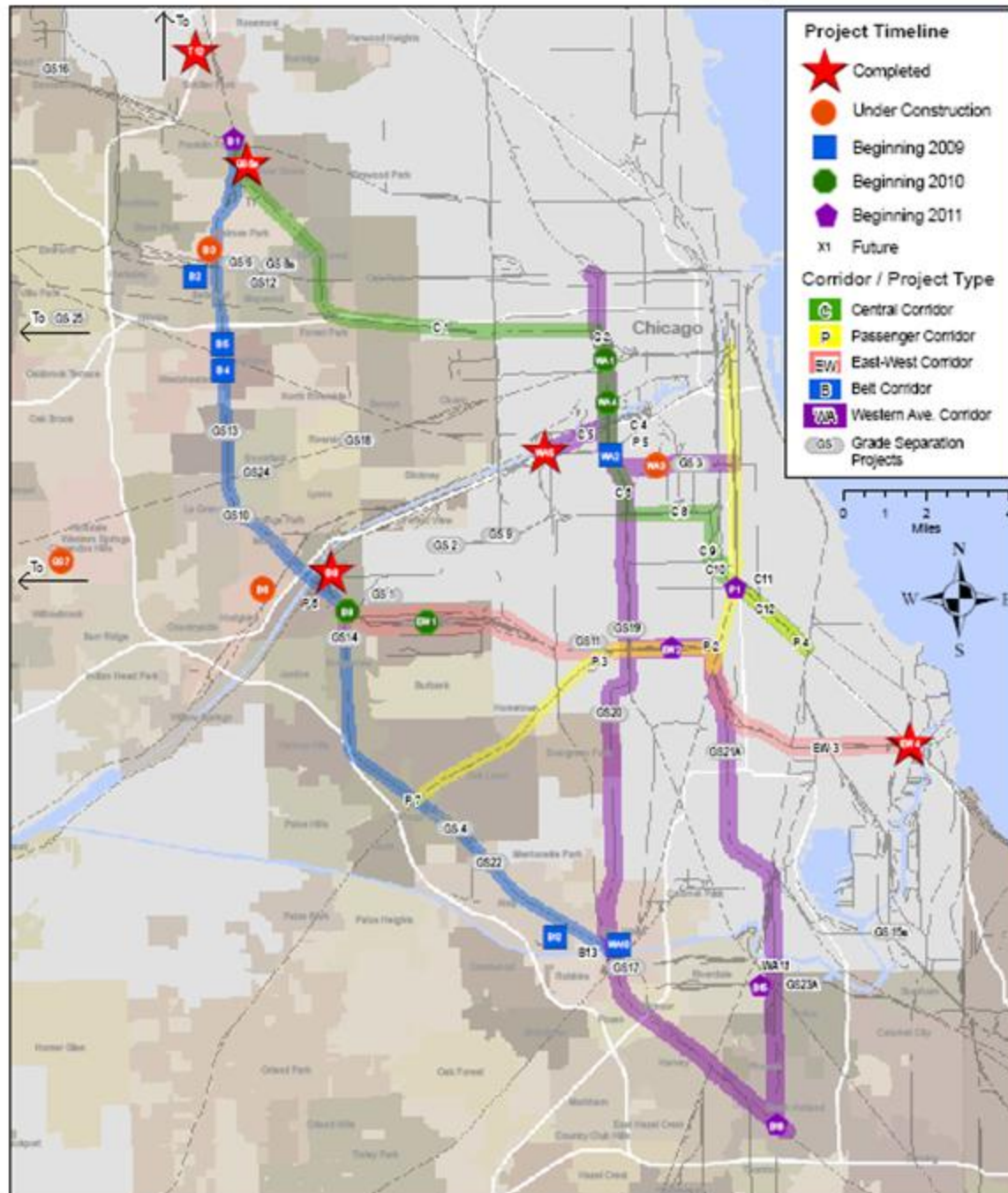
- Metra riders took 83.3 million trips in 2007
- Ridership up 9%, Trains up 8%, - 2002 -2006
- 17 CREATE projects benefit Metra
- Freight/Passenger service conflicts eliminated at flyover locations

## Amtrak

- 3 million Amtrak passengers travel to or from Chicago per year
- Ridership up 25%, Trains up 10%, - 2002-2006
- Freight rail capacity impacts Amtrak reliability
- 13 CREATE projects benefit Amtrak



# Construction Status of CREATE Projects





# CREATE Funding

- Secured - \$509.2 million
  - \$286.5 million - Pre-CREATE funding
  - \$90.6 million - Projects of National and Regional Significance
  - \$1.9 million – FY09 Appropriations
  - \$116 million - railroad partners
  - \$10 million - IL DOT
  - \$4.2 million - Chicago DOT
- Unfunded Need - \$2.56 billion



# Next Federal Transportation Bill

- High Priority Projects - Representative Dan Lipinski
  - CREATE request of \$700 million
- Potential 18 month delay





# Illinois Capital Bill

- \$300 million for CREATE
- \$100 million for individual CREATE projects
- \$400 million for High Speed Rail
- \$150 million for Amtrak





# American Reinvestment and Recovery Act

## Funding Sought for CREATE

### Discretionary Category – TIGER GRANT

- \$1.5 billion available nationally/\$300 million maximum per state
- CREATE application for \$300 million
  - CREATE application - IDOT submission
  - Benefit Cost Ratio: 6:1
- 16 Projects: railroad projects and a highway-rail grade separations
- Announcement expected: January/February 2010



# American Reinvestment and Recovery Act

## Funding Sought for CREATE

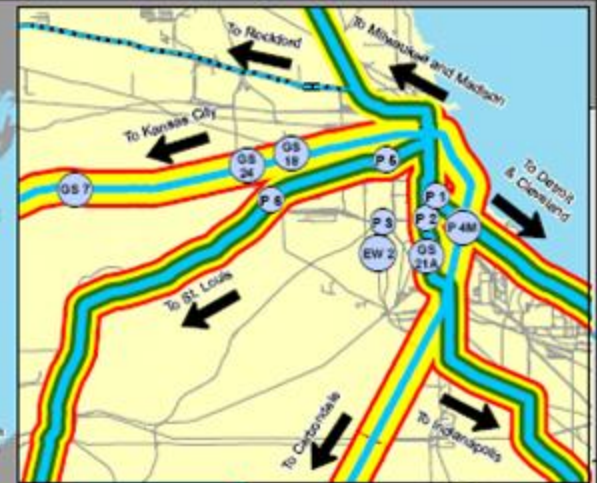
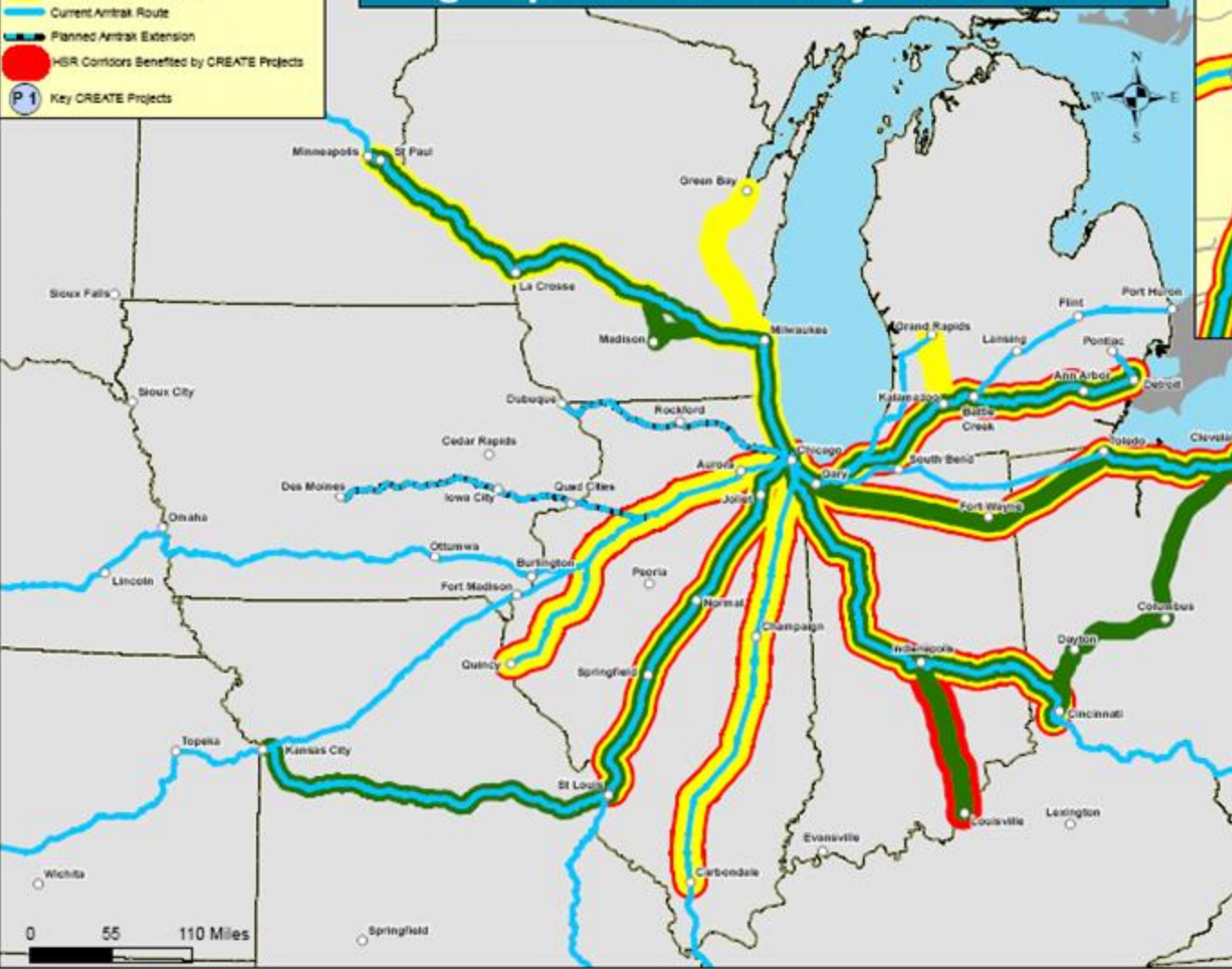
### High Speed Rail

- \$8 billion available nationally
- CREATE applications submitted to Track 1:
  - P1- Englewood flyover – improves HSR routes to East
  - P5, P6 – 2 flyovers on Heritage Corridor to St. Louis
  - P4 – Grand Crossing – provide direct route to Union Station for trains to/from Carbondale, save 15 minutes off schedules
  - P2, EW2, P3 – free up capacity at Chicago Union Station

# CREATE Projects Critical To Chicago Hub High-Speed and Intercity Rail Network

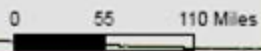
**Legend**

- █ FRA Designated HSR Corridors
- █ Midwest Regional Rail Initiative
- █ Current Amtrak Route
- █ Planned Amtrak Extension
- █ HSR Corridors Benefited by CREATE Projects
- P 1 Key CREATE Projects



**CREATE Project Description**

- ▶ **P1** - New passenger/freight rail flyover will benefit all Midwest High Speed Rail (HSR) corridors to the east.
- ▶ **P4M** - New rail connector will provide more direct route into Chicago's Union Station and reduce travel times on HSR corridor to Carbondale.
- ▶ **P5 and P6** - Passenger/freight rail flyovers will reduce travel times on HSR corridor to St. Louis.
- ▶ **P2 and P3** - These rail/rail flyover projects, in conjunction with **EW 2**, will allow the relocation of Metra's Southwest Service to LaSalle Street Station and produce additional capacity at Union Station for HSR trains.
- ▶ **GS 7** - Grade separation of BNSF rail line and Belmont Road in Downers Grove eliminates potential vehicle conflicts on HSR corridor to Quincy.
- ▶ **GS 18** - Grade separation of BNSF rail line and Harlem Avenue in Berwyn eliminates potential vehicle conflicts on HSR corridor to Quincy.
- ▶ **GS 21a** - Grade separation of UP rail line and 95th Street in Chicago eliminates potential vehicle conflicts on HSR corridor to Indianapolis.
- ▶ **GS 24** - Grade separation of BNSF rail line and Maple Avenue in Brookfield eliminates potential vehicle conflicts on HSR corridor to Quincy.





# Midwest High Speed Rail Steering Group

(IL, IA, IN, OH, MN, MI, WI, MO, & City of Chicago)

- Secretary LaHood's remarks at Union League Club – April '09
- Signed Memorandum of Understanding – July 27
- Face-to-Face ( August – Chicago, September – DC, October – Chicago) & Weekly Conference Calls
- Met with FRA, USDOT, Sen. Durbin and House Transportation Chairman Oberstar
- Focus on Chicago Terminal Hub and Corridor Completion

“ Win for One is a Win for All”



## Central Area Action Plan

- Updates the 2003 Central Area Plan
- As of the 2000 Census, over 578,000 work trips to the Central Area daily
  - 52% use transit
- Plan addresses anticipated growth in the Central Area
- Plan goals:
  - Improve transit in Central Area
  - Improve regional transit capacity
  - Improve pedestrian environment
  - Manage traffic circulation
  - Encourage alternative modes of transport
  - Improve national and international connections



# Union Station

## CAAP Recommendations



- **Union Station Access and Intermodal Terminal**
- **Improved Capacity/Facilities For Trains/Passengers**
- **New Connections via Central Area Transitway**
- **West Loop Transportation Center**



# Union Station Capacity and Growth

- Limited number of through tracks constrains train capacity
- Terminal configuration constrains passenger growth
- Current: 58 intercity and over 150 commuter trains
- An additional 100 trains with HSR build out
- Annual intercity passengers will grow from 3 million to over 8 million



# West Loop Transportation Center





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