



Appendix C

Public Involvement and Agency Coordination

C2 - PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT MEETINGS

PART 6 – OCTOBER 27, 2011 Meeting Appendices

APPENDICES

Appendix E - Comments

APPENDIX E

Range of Alternatives Public Meeting, October 27, 2011 – Comment Sheets Received

	1. Build Alternative Comments	2a. Metra Rock Island	2b. Metra Rock Island Comments	3a. Union Ave.	3b. Union Ave. Comments	4. Overall Meeting Experience	5. How could we have made it better?	6. How did you learn about meeting?	7. Any other comments
1								Postcard in mail	-- What kind of impact will this have when demolition begins. What happens to the foundations of peoples' properties. -- What happens if they have to dig as deep as the "Bedrock" -- What happens with the drainage problems. They already exist. Once they begin these projects the problem will get worse because the water has to go somewhere! -- What happens when all of these ideas on paper doesn't work out. We all know it's never what it looks like . What will happen to the residents at that point.
2		A	Because the church is located in the pathway of the flyover – we don't want that noise. I've know much theft drug dumping like it been in recent times will increase all negative impacts I believe this is enough to answer.			Not informative enough. The question has not yet been addressed	Answer the question	It's my church that I'm concerned about. Through the church.	My comment is to have our church relocated in a more quiet area with no
3	There were too many contradictions. Questions were asked but the responses did not respond to the questions until someone asked is that a Yes or No!		I am not familiar with this area therefore cannot comment.		I am not familiar with this area therefore can't	No actual answers. Lots of fudging on answers.	Minimize the Bishop's comments in the future.	Postcard in mail	We keep hearing the same info on the boards, the video presentation and 30 minutes for Q and A.
4		A	I support Route A, so the Church will be relocated from flyover. I am concerned about flyover. I am a resident of 75 th Street and I am concerned about high crime to the church, my family and the community such as theft, drug traffic, dumping, gang violence, noise and other negative impacts.	2	The viaducts are an easy access to residents. But they will need to be well lit to help deter crime.	My experience was very enlightened and informative.	You could have made it better by pointing out the benefits that this project will have on the residents in the community. Point out the pros and cons.	Other – Pastor at church	
5		A	I support Route A so that church be						

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			relocated away from flyover. Concerned about flyover Expect negative impact of theft, rail noise, drug traffic dumping						
6	The transportation may relieve congestion, but some home may be displaced and that is a bad thing.		I choose neither one of these routes, because properties may be required.	1	Chose these one because a closure for a year is unnecessary and a inconvenience.	The overall experience was okay	The meeting should have been advertised more in advance not just in the newspaper, but online and the news media	Other – Alderman Office – During a block club coalition meeting from a attendee	Will there be noise reduction. Will the railroad increase property value. Will the railroad bring about full-time employment
7									The jobs mentioned at the meeting (10/26/11 are high skilled jobs or the interns are being trained for high skilled jobs. What about jobs in the community that do not require skills. Ex. painting viaducts
8	I don't see how this improves things in the community. It also Metra to avoid some delays and may open the door for more freight trains.	C	Fewer homes acquired No institutions acquired	2	Uncertain of the impact to the neighborhood if Union closed. How will people get to the bus stop from 74 th if Union closed off? Is there another way to walk to the bus?	People were approachable and helpful		Poster in Metra Station	1. It's not clear to me how moving the Southwest line from Union to LaSalle benefits Southwest riders. The benefit appears to be to other Metra lines. 2. More freight trains will cause more noise and down crossing gates. So efficiency just sounds like more freight trains may go through the neighborhood.
9		A	We support Route A so that the church would be relocated away from the Flyover. We are very concerned about the Flyover we expect we expect that there would be theft more drugs Traffic dumping rail noise and other impacts For the above reason we supports Route A.						
10		A	We (I Care) support option A						
11		A	I support Route A, so that the church would be relocated away from the						

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			flyover, we are concerned about the flyover. we expect that there would be theft, more drug traffic, dumping, rail noise and other negative impacts						
12		A	We support Route A so that church can relocate away from flyover concern about the impact of theft, drug traffic and rail noise.						
13		A	We support Route A, so that the church would be relocated away from the flyover. We are very concern about the flyover. We expect that there would be theft, more drug traffic, dumping, rail noise, and other negative impacts.						
14		A	We support Route A so that the church would be relocated. away from Flyover. We expect that there would be theft, more drugs train dumping rail noise, and other negative impacts. For the above reason we support Route A.						
15		A	(I Care) We support Route A so that church be relocated away from flyover – concerned about the possibility of drug trafficking, theft, dumping, rail noise and other negative impacts.						
16		A	We support Route A, so that the church would be relocated away from the flyover. We are very concern about the flyover. We expect that there would be theft, more drugs, traffic, dumping, rail noise, and other negative impacts. For the above reason, we support Route A						
17		A	I chose this route because my church is on the corner of 75 and Parnell, there is drugs & crime everywhere the noise from the train would increase right next to the church, there is always more crime around the train			The meeting was ok		Other – through my church	

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	concern is that there is a long stretch of land between 71 st & 74 th Street, What protection will we have under the viaduct. Will it be fenced in, well lighted and also the amount of crime, gangs, rapes and gun violence will possibly will increase. Please canvas the neighborhood to find out the needs of the community.								
25	It would be a hinder getting back and forth to church.	A				To find out what's going to happen		Other – Our pastor, Rev. Smith.	I'm concerned about traffic and the noise over my church on 7500 S. Parnell. Definitely more crime our safety going to and from church.
26		A							
27	I didn't think it was very good information. You gave no mention of what residential areas would be affected???							Other – didn't receive any type notice	If you know which area of houses will be affected why is it that you didn't mention which housing areas would be affected???
28	I am very concerned about our homes on Hamilton Avenue. The Forest Hill Junction. Right now you are saying "No homes will be taken." I can work with the ability to get around the project study area. I just don't want to move.		Not familiar with this area		Not familiar with this area	The one on one's were very informative. My questions were answered		Postcard in mail	
29	The information presented does not address street traffic during construction. What sites will require traffic to be rerouted and where will it be rerouted to?	C	Route C impacts the least amount of residential property owners. The bigger concern is how the property value is going to be determined in todays down market.	1	It would limit through traffic and hopefully make the area safer.	The concerns I had for the viaduct issues are still unanswered.	Get to the point, too much double talk	Postcard in mail	I have a concern over the Forest Hill area where the tracks will be raised. This will create more noise and be a eye soar. It will also make the property difficult to sell. I requested a speaker to attend our WIA meeting and have not heard back.
30	It seem like it won't affect my ability to get around, but it will cause a problem for other people, even at the expense of their homes.	C	Because less properties will be affected	2	It seem like if you reconstruct the viaduct it will avoid conflict.	I learn about the conditions that the viaducts were in, and what is needed to correct the problem.	I don't know how you could have made it better, you had the power point which was very explanatory.	Postcard in mail	Meeting was very informative, but it doesn't seem like its going to affect my ability to get around, or my property

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31		A	We support Route A so the church would be relocated away from the flyover. We are very concerned about the flyover. We expect that there would be theft, more drug traffic, dumping, rail noise, and other negative impacts.						
32	So far my transportation issues won't be affected, but I will address this at a later date, if it does	B	When you are talking about 71 st St, what is the first main street east of Damen you are referring to? Will this affect 71 st St. east of Halsted, as well?	2	How will taking this route affect the CTA bus, which goes down 74 th St?	It was very informative, but there are still some major concerns	By being more informative about the adjoining areas of concern	Other – Flyer	At this moment my property is not affected, but later on those issues could change.
33	--My transportation concerns center around road conditions beneath, lighting and maintenance of viaducts. (I'm always afraid something may fall) --I am also greatly impacted by the noise during early morning hours of the trains transitioning as they twist and curve along the tracks.		This is a choice that I would like to make after considering everything presented tonight, and viewing the powerpoint again on the website. I am leaning toward Route C	1	There are other ways that people can access this area. It will also be safer for people and require less reconstruction.				
34			We support route A, so that the church would be relocated away from the flyover. We are very concerned about the flyover. We expect that there would be theft, more drug traffic, dumping, rail noise, and other negative impacts.						
35		A	We support Route A so that the church would be relocated away from the flyover we are very concerned about the Flyover we expect that there would be theft more drug traffic, dumping, rail noise and other negative impacts					From my church	
36		A, B	Route A – 40 mph design speed no parkland required 21 prope route b 35 ,ph design 21 properties acquired Including 14 residential And no institutions e.g churches schools Metra, SWS, Metra, SWS, Metra Rocks Island District Metra Rock Island District	1, 2	Close Union Ave at current sac Union at the viaduct on both sides and allow two-way traffic no vehicular or pedestrian through traffic under railroad tracks.			Poster in Metra station Metra SWS metra Rock Island District	

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37	We support route a. So that the church would be relocated away from flyover. We very concerned about theft, more cars								
38	We would like to meet with your firms (IDOT, CDOT & RR companies) to discuss business participation and securing funding for this project.								
39								Postcard in mail	The trains (Metra, CSX) run directly behind our homes on 79 th Lowe. The vibration from the trains have caused structural damage to the residents homes. Every time a train passes the foundation of the homes suffer. What is being done to decrease this problem Also the viaduct from 79 th and 80 th Lowe are crumbling which causes a danger to pedestrians
40	I think the information presented was alright, I know it will look better. I would like to stay in my home, and be able to enjoy the park.	C	I don't think it would affect me too much as long as it looks nice for the future.			Excellent!	I don't know, but this is good for me. I love it! Thank you!	Doorhanger Postcard in mail News on Ch 7 T.V.	None
41	My home is no longer on the map but clean weeds on tracks								
42		A	We support Route A. This is that the church would be relocated away from the flyover. The concern is that this may bring higher crime theft drugs traffic dumping rail noise and other negative impact to the area.			There was a number of questions answered differently this sometime make it difficult to believe that what you say and what you will do will be the same.		Pastor of church	
43		A	We support Route A, so that the church would be relocated away from the flyover. We are very concerned about the flyover. We expect that there would be theft, more drug						

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			traffic, dumping, rail noise, and other negative impacts.						
44	Commuting through the neighbourhood,, I take Bell St. to cross 71 st by bicycle. The existing hump in 71 st at the CSX level crossing calms traffic and makes it safe for me to use Bell Ave. as a bike route. I'd like to see either another suitable bike route established between Marquette and Columbus, or a careful design of the intersection of Bell and 71 st .	C	Minimizes impact, construction costs, and track curvature. Will SWS trains be expected to slow to join the Rock Island line? If so, very carefully select the track superelevation to minimize speed, even is the maximum track speed has to be reduced slightly.	1	Minimize construction. I have no interest in using Union Ave, so my opinion should not matter much on this question.	It's my first one.		Other – Grid Chicago blog posting	Do it and do it well. When constructing the new CSX track on the south side of the 75 th St. corridor, leave sufficient room to build platforms for a Metra station on the SWS line between Halsted and Ashland. Better yet, build a station!
45	I was told this project will not affect my address. My main concern was keeping my property because I am a senior citizen, on a fixed income and not able to buy another house. I am happy about the improvements as long as our neighborhood remains intact.	C	I am not familiar with any of these routes. However I chose Route C because it seems to affect minimal properties and acquisitions.	1	Again I am not familiar with this area. However, closing the street seems to be better than lowering the street and building new sewers.	I feel a little better when I was told that my property would not be affected. I am still concerned for the other families who will be affected. This is not a good time for properties to be acquired.	I believe it was as organized as you could have made it. I think it is important to keep us informed about meetings and changes.	Postcard in mail	Please try to avoid displacing as many families as possible. We are not a wealthy neighborhood and these changes will drastically affect lives forever.
46	I am relieve to know that my home will not be taken.								
47		A	We support Route A, so that the church would be relocated away from the flyover. We are very concerned about the flyover. We expect that there would be theft, more drug traffic, dumping, rail noise, and other negative impacts.					Postcard in mail Other – Church/Pastor	
48		A	We support Route A, so that the church would be relocated away from the flyover. We are very concerned about the flyover. We expect that this would be a negative impact.						
49	The 73 rd & Lafayette Ave will be affected by this corridor because of noise and pollution. This block is already affected by trucks, L tract and car pollution. Our houses are shaken and our health is endangered. Are people and their lives and health just as important as cars and transportation?							Newspaper Advertisement – Sun-Times	I hope it does not happen. My life will be greatly impacted.

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50	Not sure	C	Because fewer people would be displaced and no churches or schools	1	Less inconvenience by streets being closed for long period of time.	Presentation was informative but I still have questions	Not sure	Newspaper Advertisement – The Citizen	My concern is whether I'd be in the area that needs to acquire my property.
51	Some areas were addressed. Areas that were inadequately addressed were: --Specifically what would be done to reduce noise from rails . . . --What would be done to counteract negative community activity . . . --What would be done to counteract property impact to surrounding homes . . . --Possible drainage problems created by construction . . .	A	I choose to support Route A. I am a member of I care Ministries and I support the relocation of the church, away from the proposed flyover. We are very concerned about the flyover. Trains, expressways and viaducts create natural barriers within a community, whether they are intended for that purpose or not. They also become drawing points for negative community activity. We expect that there will be increased theft, drug traffic, dumping (a current problem), rail noise, and other negative impacts. For these reasons mentioned above, we support Route A.	2	I am in favor of the Reconstruction project. Through traffic should be maintained in neighborhood areas.		I do not feel enough community broadcast about this project is being made. It should be increased so all involved can be fully aware of what is going on.	Other – Pastor L. Smith	We currently have issues with train noise from stalled trains, dumping, and area maintenance. We do not see this improving with the creation of the flyover. We do not want the church located next to a train site.
52									No cleaning of railroad with leave. Tree's – Rat's – Garbage
53	It was a well planned meeting and highly informative. I prefer the Forest Hill and 71 st Street design					Very informative and well planned.	I think it was excellent	Other – Friend (neighbor)	I think that the project team has done a remarkable job with the alternatives for the project.
54								By mail	68 th St. need some one to come out and cut the grass & clean up the weeds in this area 2120 W. 68 th St. Chicago, IL 60636
55									Need to have some one to check the track because the kids are able to go up their they throw rock down from there they have broke my side window out they have broke my window out of my van.

Court Reporter Comments from PUBLIC MEETING 2
Range of Alternatives - October 27, 2011

Comment Number	Summary of Comments
1	<p>I am concerned about the Landers Yard expansion, where they are putting a third track for the Norfolk and Southern line. It's my understanding that they are going to put a third line in and a chain link fence on the railroad property. I go out once a month and clean up all the garbage along the tracks. Most comes from railroad employees throwing garbage out of trains and work vehicles.</p> <p>I'm concerned that if a fence is put up, all the garbage will lay there. The railroad has never cleaned it up, and it's left to the residents to do it. If we don't have access to the property, I hope the railroad will clean it up.</p> <p>In addition, I have planted a Native Planting along the border of my property and the railroad property. It's certified with the National Wildlife Federation as wildlife habitat. If they are going to put this fence along the tracks, why not plant native plantings along the whole route.</p> <p>Please come to my property to see what I've accomplished on city/railroad property.</p>
2	<p>I want to commend the organizers for having this public forum.</p>
3	<p>Train noise behind my house is horrible. I don't understand why they blow horns at 2 or 3 a.m.</p>
4	<p>Is the noise we already hear going to be worse? I hear horns blowing in the evening, and I am woken up by them. The trains idle through the night.</p>
5	<p>Dead trees and dying trees on railroad property hang over my house. They need to be removed. I see people breaking into stopped trains and stealing things.</p> <p>Trains are very noisy. When they start up after having been stopped, there is a loud noise.</p> <p>There are hazardous chemicals on trains that require a two-mile evacuation, and I am 60 feet from the tracks. I hope a representative will call me so that we can discuss what can be done next.</p>
6	<p>Throughout the city, people working at construction sites resemble the composition of the community, except in the Black community. I am the president of the 18th Ward, and I have been instrumental in shutting down sites. Current regulations don't result in locals getting construction jobs. For this project, we need to sit down from the beginning, before groundbreaking, before any hiring, before federal funds are allocated, and stipulate that we need minority jobs 100%.</p> <p>We have the noise, the vibration, the pollution, the traffic. When this project starts, I want to see people that look like this community. I'm willing to work with them, but I'll also battle them.</p>
7	<p>If railroads could coordinate and share tracks, lines could be eliminated and much construction wouldn't be needed.</p>
8	<p>Please be conscious of the noise. Please streamline and improve.</p>
9	<p>Young Black men need jobs and opportunities. This will be a great opportunity for them to find work, and will change the neighborhood a lot. Thank you.</p>

Emails Received During Comment Period for Range of Alternatives PIM

Date	Category	Subject	Email
10/11/2011	Property Questions	Comment Submission: DISPLACEMENTS	I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW IF MY STREET ADDRESS IS ONE THAT POSSIBLY MIGHT BE DISPLACED Address: [REDACTED] CHICAGO IL 60620.(AUBURN GRESHAM)
10/14/2011	Property Questions	Comment Submission: Add To Mailing List	I would like information on how the project will affect my mothers home. [Address: [REDACTED] Chicago,IL. 60636]
10/17/2011	Design Questions & Comments	Comment Submission: location for this railroad	i\'m interesting in what streets will this project be coming through will this be were i\'m living [Address: [REDACTED] chicago IL 60636]
10/18/2011	Negative Reactions	Comment Submission: direct access into Union Station for South/Southwest area of Chicagoland	Of course the concept of improved rail service is AWESOME! But I will contact every elected official and appointed board member to stress the importance of direct access to and from Union Station for residents of the South and Southwest areas of Chicagoland. If you disconnect all of our public transportation rail lines from Union Station we no longer have this access which is enjoyed by the Western areas of Chicagoland and the North and Northwestern areas of Chicagoland. I want the Metra SWS and Heritage Corridor lines to continue access to and from Union Station for daily commuter convenience and for access to Amtrak service. The ruse of the \"fly-over\" as a project which solves all evils of the habitually delayed Metra SWS and Heritage Corridor service is wrong.
10/19/2011	Meeting Request	Re: Comment Submission: direct access into Union Station for South/Southwest area of Chicagoland	Thanks for the reply cannot make at meeting at that time as i work downtown until 4:30 and am a SWS commuter out of Union Station. You need to have a meeting at Union Station after 5 pm
10/23/2011	Schedule Questions	Comment Submission: Timeline	Once this project is approved what is the projected date of completion? How many construction phases are anticipated and what are their individual timelines?
10/23/2011	Community Advisory Group	Comment Submission: Community Advisory Group	Who are the members of the Community Advisory Group? and how can I become a member?
10/24/2011	Design Questions & Comments	Comment Submission: 75th St. CREATE project	Because the meeting that has been scheduled for Thurs., Oct. 27, is not convenient for me to attend, I would like to make you aware of my feelings on this project. The reason I am riding

			<p>the SouthWest line from Oak Lawn is because this train pulls into Union Station, making it much easier for me to get to work. Relocating this train line to LaSalle Street Station would make it much more difficult and possibly more expensive to commute downtown for any of your passengers who work on the north end of downtown Chicago. With the proposed fare increases, does Metra really want to increase travel expenses even more for their passengers? Please let me know why this is being considered.</p>
10/24/2011	Meeting Request	RE: Comment Submission: 75th St. CREATE project	<p>Thank you for your response. I would appreciate it very much if you could let us know if you are planning on having a meeting somewhere convenient to the SWS line in the future before the decision is made to actually move the line.</p> <p>Kind regards,</p>
10/26/2011	Property Questions	Comment Submission: [REDACTED] chicago, IL 60621	<p>I need information because we have not been given any information about the redevelopment in our area. I was also told that the property on 70th Wallace will be torn down. Please provide me information about this my property is [REDACTED]. My number is [REDACTED]</p>
10/27/2011	Design Questions & Comments	Comment Submission: forest hill crossing	<p>trains sitting-box cars being broke into-hazardous materials sitting behind my house that require two mile evacuation noisy refrigerator cars trains coming around curb picking up speed to fast 83rd 87th slamming (startup & stoping) trees on railroad property</p>
10/28/2011	Property Questions	Comment Submission: infro. on 75th St.Cip..	<p>I have another building located at [REDACTED] [REDACTED] chicago, ill will either of my properties interfere with your improvements, May St. or Eberhart locations.</p>
11/1/2011	Schedule Questions	Comment Submission: 75th street project	<p>info. about the project and when will it transpire</p>
11/3/2011	Negative Reactions	Comment Submission: Routing SWS Trains to LaSalle Street Station	<p>What a perfectly absurd idea.</p>
11/5/2011	Design Questions & Comments	Comment Submission: Increased Idling Trains near 89th & Eggleston	<p>I attended the most recent public hearing during which similar questions were asked & answered instead of a variety covering all aspects of the project. I live in the 89th block of Eggleston and over the past 8 years the number of sitting trains has increased and although there is a section of</p>

			<p>track that has no houses in front of it at 90th, the trains idle at terrible hours (one just left at 3:00 am) right behind my house in the middle of the block. Will the 80th St Junction project address this and if not, can the idling location of the conductor car be addressed with the railroad companies to target sections of the track, just a few feet forward that are not directly behind residences?</p>
--	--	--	---