



75th Street Corridor Improvement Project



## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT UPDATE

The table illustrates how the Community Advisory Group's input supports and better defines the Problem Statement for the 75th St. CIP.

| PROBLEM   | EXISTING CONDITION  | COMMUNITY CONCERNS IDENTIFIED  |
|---|---|--|
| <b>Delays at rail junctions</b>                                   | <p><b>Forest Hill Junction</b>—The north-south railroad tracks cross the east-west tracks of three other railroads at this location, causing delays for freight and passenger trains waiting for other trains to cross.</p> <p><b>Belt Junction</b>—Five railroad tracks converge onto two tracks at this location. Most trains need to cross to another track, much like changing lanes on a highway. Usually, only one train is able to pass through this junction at a time.</p> <p><b>80th Street Junction</b>—Six tracks converge onto two tracks at this location. The total train traffic is more than the railroad tracks can handle, which causes freight and passenger trains to back up.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Trains idle in the project area.</li> <li>Area residents report that idling trains cause noise and air pollution.</li> <li>Train horns are heard blowing both during the day and at night.</li> <li>Area residents report that vibrations from trains affect the foundations of adjacent homes.</li> <li>The community reports that theft from rail cars on stopped trains is a concern.</li> <li>Area residents report health concerns due to fumes and noise from idling trains.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Junctions are too close together</b>                           | Due to the length of most freight trains, a train cannot stop for one junction without blocking another junction. To prevent gridlock, trains must wait beyond the project area so the junctions remain clear. This stopping and restarting causes delays and limits the amount of train traffic that can pass through the area.  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Trains idle in the project area.</li> <li>Area residents report that idling trains cause noise and air pollution.</li> <li>Train horns are heard blowing both during the day and at night.</li> <li>Area residents report that vibrations from trains affect the foundations of adjacent homes.</li> <li>The community reports that theft from rail cars on stopped trains is a concern.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Delays for drivers and pedestrians at 71st Street crossing</b> | At this rail-street crossing, drivers and pedestrians using 71st Street must wait for trains to pass. This crossing may also present a safety risk for drivers and pedestrians.   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stopped trains can cause people to be late to work, church, and school.</li> <li>Adults and children sometimes climb between train cars to cross tracks.</li> <li>Residents are concerned that stopped trains could delay emergency responders.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Poor conditions at viaducts</b>                                | The poor condition at some viaducts—bridges where road traffic crosses underneath railroad tracks—can cause safety issues for drivers and pedestrians.  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The community reports that viaducts are uninviting to walk or drive under.</li> <li>Area residents are worried about falling concrete and debris.</li> <li>Many viaducts are badly lit.</li> <li>There can be water, ice, or muddy debris on sidewalks underneath viaducts due to poor drainage.</li> <li>Low clearances of viaducts have prevented truck deliveries to neighborhood businesses.</li> <li>Low clearances also sometimes cause trucks to become stuck under viaducts.</li> <li>Vegetation around some viaducts limits visibility.</li> <li>Columns limit visibility and access for some turning movements at bridges next to intersections.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Limits on Metra's SouthWest Service line</b>                   | Metra's SouthWest Service runs on only one track located near Wrightwood Station to Western Avenue. This limits the flexibility and reliability of Metra service.   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Access to reliable transit is a concern to the community.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Metra conflicts with freight trains</b>                        | Metra trains cross freight train tracks at several locations within the study area, including the Forest Hill Junction and the Belt Junction. There are also conflicts between freight rail lines and Metra's SouthWest Service in the shared corridor between the study area and Union Station. During peak commuter periods only Metra trains are allowed to run in these areas. As a result, freight trains—and sometimes Metra trains—may encounter lengthy delays.   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Access to reliable transit is a concern to the community.</li> </ul>  |