

Purpose and Need

Legend

- Study Area
- Rail Operations
 - Amtrak
 - BRC
 - CSX
 - Metra SWS
 - Metra RID
 - NS
 - UP/CSX
 - Bridge

Project Purpose

The purpose of the 75th Street Corridor Improvement Project (CIP) is to improve mobility for rail passengers, freight, and motorists.

Improve Rail Transit Passenger Service Reliability

Metra SouthWest Service
Metra runs on only one track from Wrightwood Station to Western Avenue.

This limits the flexibility and reliability of Metra service.

Reduce Highway-Rail Crossing Problems

71st Street-Rail Crossing
Residents using this crossing must wait for trains to pass. The crossing may also present a safety risk for drivers and pedestrians.

Reduce Rail Line At-Grade Conflicts

Forest Hill Junction
The north-south railroad tracks cross the east-west tracks, causing delays as trains wait for their turn to pass through.

Eliminate conflicts and resulting delays.

Reduce Rail Line At-Grade Conflicts

Belt Junction
Five railroad tracks converge onto two tracks at this location. Most trains cross to another track, like changing lanes on a highway.

Usually only one train can pass through at a time.

Improve Local Mobility

Viaducts
Lighting, drainage and other issues at some bridges under the railroad tracks are substandard.

Existing conditions limit the ability of residents to get around.

Reduce Rail Line At-Grade Conflicts

Metra Conflicts with Freight Trains
Metra trains cross freight train tracks at Forest Hill Junction, Belt Junction and several locations between the study area and Union Station. During peak commuter periods freight movements are restricted in these areas.

As a result, freight trains, and sometimes Metra trains, may encounter lengthy delays.

Reduce Rail Line At-Grade Conflicts

Junctions Too Close Together
Due to the length of freight trains, a train cannot stop at one junction without blocking another. To prevent gridlock, trains must wait farther away.

This causes delays and limits the amount of train traffic that can pass through the area.

Reduce Rail Line At-Grade Conflicts

80th Street Junction
Six tracks converge onto two tracks at this location.

Train traffic is more than the tracks can handle, which causes delays.

