

New Projects or Extensions

I-294/I-57 Interchange

Central Lake County Corridor (IL 53 North and IL 120)

A workshop was held on February 9th to discuss roadway design. Most Blue Ribbon Council members support the process, and the potential roadway, moving forward. Instant polling of Council members revealed the top three priorities were “innovative design solutions,” “minimize environmental impacts,” and “promote environmental enhancements and sustainable practices.” The group favored a 45 mph tolled parkway.

All Blue Ribbon Committee meeting materials can be found at

<http://www.illinoistollway.com/construction-and-planning/community-outreach/illinois-route-53-120-blue-ribbon-advisory-council>

Elgin O'Hare Expressway Improvements (including Western O'Hare Bypass)

Newspapers reported that Aviation Commissioner Rosemary Andolino said the proposed western terminals at O'Hare may not be constructed. This could impact support for project.

Consultants provided CMAP with a draft methodology report on development of market-based socioeconomic forecasts for concurrence on 2-15-2012.

CTA South Red Line Extension

The CTA will begin work on the project environmental impact statement in March 2012 and the study should take 18-24 months to complete.

West Loop Transportation Center / Union Station Master Plan

Metropolitan Planning Council announced a roundtable that will be held on March 14, 2012 called Place Stations: Creating Fun and Functional Transit Centers. The meeting will focus on how Union Stations in Denver and Washington have been converted to vibrant spaces. Making Union Station a more vibrant anchor to the station area is a goal important to the master planning process.

Expressway Additions and Improvements

I-190 Access Improvements

I-80 Add Lanes (US 30 to US 45) – (essentially completed)

I-88 Add Lanes**I-94 Add Lanes North (essentially completed)**

While this project is essentially complete, the associated Russell Road bridge over I-94 will be replaced in the 2012 construction season.

Managed Lanes and Multimodal Corridors**I-55 Managed Lanes****I-90 Managed Lanes**

The Illinois Tollway contracted with a consultant to undertake analysis for the Corridor Planning Council. This project will develop more detail regarding project endpoints, access/egress locations, HOV policy, transit service, traffic, revenue and equity. The consultants will also conduct public outreach. A final report is expected in March 2012.

Preliminary construction work (utilities, shoulders) will begin this construction season, mostly in the section west of Elgin toll plaza. The entire project is scheduled for completion in 2016.

To help accommodate expected additional traffic flow from the tollway onto I-90 at the east end of the project, IDOT is investigating converting the existing shoulder on the Kennedy between the end of the Tollway and Harlem Avenue to a driving lane. Physical limitations preclude this strategy farther east.

I-290 Multimodal Corridor**Transit Improvements****CTA North Red and Purple Line Improvements**

CTA held two public update meetings in February to present information about the EIS process, provide additional information about the project, and solicit feedback.

FTA Environmental Specialists are currently assisting the CTA with air quality impact determinations. Environmental documents are being prepared for 7 individual stations.

Metra UP West Improvements

A major component of this project involves the UP-W Public Private Partnership (UP-W PPP), which includes upgrades to signal systems, crossovers, pedestrian safety improvements, and

new triple track. Most of the pedestrian diversion construction was completed in summer 2011, and construction of signals and crossovers is currently proceeding.

Metra Rock Island Improvements

A major component of this project involves the Englewood flyover (CREATE project P1), which would grade separate the Metra Rock Island District tracks from the Norfolk Southern freight tracks. Each day, 78 Metra trains, 14 Amtrak and 46 freight trains pass through this existing at-grade rail crossing. This project broke ground on 10/10/11.

Metra SouthWest Service Improvements

The 75th Street Corridor Improvement Project (75th St. CIP) is the largest project in the CREATE Program. The project is located in the Chicago neighborhoods of Ashburn, Englewood, Auburn Gresham and West Chatham along two passenger and four freight rail lines. An Environmental Impact Statement study is underway and the Range of Alternatives Public Meeting was held on 10/27/11.

Metra UP North Improvements

A major component of this project involves the replacement of 22 bridges between Fullerton Ave. and Balmoral Ave. Design was completed in 2011 and construction work has begun on the initial 11 bridges. Design and construction of the remaining 11 bridges will be carried out in subsequent years.

Metra UP Northwest Improvements and Extension

Metra UP Northwest Improvements and Extension – This project is currently undergoing an Environmental Assessment.

Fiscally Constrained Projects Other

CREATE

Regional Transit Signal Priority

Illiana Expressway

IDOT and INDOT will hold another set of public meetings on February 22nd and 23rd, 2012 in Matteson IL and Crown Point IN to present the best performing corridors which will be carried forward in further studies.

The Illiana Corridor Planning Group recommended a route starting at I-65 between Cedar Lake and Lowell Indiana and ending at I-55 near Wilmington. The alternative is called B3.

Active Fiscally Unconstrained Projects

DuPage "J" Line

South Lakefront Corridor

Central Area Transitway

I-80 Add/Managed Lanes (Grundy County Line to US30)

IL 394

Metra Heritage Corridor

The Heritage corridor to Summit has been added to the Passenger Corridor of CREATE. This will include two rail to rail grade separations and other projects that would improve passenger operations in this corridor.

Metra SouthEast Service Corridor

Members have been named to the board of the SouthEast Commuter Rail Mass Transit District. The SES Alternatives Analysis (AA) Final Report (Document #9) outlining the locally preferred alternative was published and posted to Metra's website in August 2011. This marks the completion of the SES AA.

Metra STAR Line Corridor

Metra BNSF Extension

The Chicago Tribune reports that on Friday 2/17, Metra approved two contracts totaling \$1.8 million to study extending the BNSF Line from Aurora to Oswego in Kendall County.

Prairie Parkway