Northeastern Illinois Priority Grade Crossings

Revised, July 2019



Northeastern Illinois has one of the densest railroad systems in North America; approximately one-quarter of all freight trains and one-half of all intermodal trains in the country pass through the region. Six of the seven Class I railroads operate in the Chicago region, along with three switching railroads, five short-line railroads, and three passenger services. About 78 million rides are taken on the Metra commuter rail system each year. While the rail system is a pillar of the local economy, there are delays and safety challenges at many highway-rail grade crossings.

Local and state agencies have jointly evaluated the region's busiest railroad crossings and have identified priorities for grade separations or crossing improvements. The following qualitative and quantitative factors were considered in this evaluation:

Traffic and congestion data

- Daily truck, passenger car, and transit traffic at the crossing
- Number of daily freight and passenger trains
- Daily gate down time (i.e., the amount of time the crossing is blocked by a train)

Safety reports

- Automobile or truck crashes, or incidents at the crossing

Mobility data

- Proximity to businesses or residential areas, and pedestrian and bicycle traffic
- Location of nearest crossing that is grade separated

Feasibility of construction

- Available right-of-way and adjacent land uses

Ultimately, 47 priority crossings or groups of crossings were selected, including 16 crossings that are also part of the CREATE Program (www.createprogram.org). For some of these crossings, agencies have studied potential improvements, engaged local officials and communities, and even obtained funding—all important steps toward construction. For other locations, studies and engagement have not begun. In these cases, over the next several years, the agencies will work together with rail-industry partners and other affected stakeholders to study potential improvements and engage local communities. The priority list will be updated periodically as rail operations change, new information becomes available, and proposed improvements are completed or determined to be infeasible.

The 47 priority crossings identified in 2019 are shown in the tables below. A map on the back page shows the location of each crossing.

Northeastern Illinois Priority Grade Crossings – Chicago, July 2019

Map Key	Status	Street	City	County	Daily Vehicular Traffic at Crossing	Railroad(s) Affected	CREATE or Other Program	Number of Crossings	DOT Number of Crossing
A		55th St	Chicago	Cook	21,100	BRC		Single	843807M
B		63rd St	Chicago	Cook	16,300	BRC		Single	843810V
C	◒ *	63rd-65th St	Chicago/ Summit/ Bedford Park	Cook	12,400-14,900	BRC	GS1; CCFP	Multiple	869223U; 869221F
D	●	71st St	Chicago	Cook	11,100	CSX	GS19	Single	163446G
E		87th St	Chicago/ Evergreen Park	Cook	31,100	CSX	GS20	Single	163437H
F	◒	95th St	Chicago	Cook	21,100	UP	GS21A	Single	867231E
G	◒	Archer Ave	Chicago	Cook	19,800	BRC	GS9	Single	843806F
H	**	Canal St	Chicago	Cook	2,750	ATK		Single	863849D
I	◒	Central Ave	Chicago	Cook	21,900	BRC	GS2	Single	326918E
J	●	Columbus Ave	Chicago	Cook	11,500	BRC	GS11	Single	843823W
K	◒ *	Devon/ Caldwell/ Central	Chicago	Cook	25,400	Metra		Multiple	386379G; 386378A; 386377T
L	*	Elsdon Subdivision	Chicago/ Evergreen Park/ Blue Island/ Dixmoor/South Holland	Cook	1,850-28,100	CSX		Multiple	283144K; 283147F; 283149U; 283151V; 283158T; 283145S; 283146Y; 283164W; 283180F
M		Harlem Ave	Chicago/ Elmwood Park	Cook	23,900	Metra		Single	372126H

Railroad Acronyms

ATK	Amtrak
BNSF	BNSF Railway
BRC	Belt Railway Company of Chicago
CN	Canadian National
CP	Canadian Pacific
CSX	CSX Transportation
IHB	Indiana Harbor Belt
Metra	Northeast Illinois Regional Commuter Railroad Corporation
NS	Norfolk Southern Railway
SSL	Northern Indiana Commuter Transportation District (South Shore Line)
UP	Union Pacific Railroad



Northeastern Illinois Priority Grade Crossings – Suburban Locations, July 2019

Map Key	Status	Street	City	County	Daily Vehicular Traffic at Crossing	Railroad(s) Affected	CREATE or Other Program	Number of Crossings	DOT Number of Crossing
N		115th St	Alsip	Cook	12,000	IHB	GS22; CCFP	Single	163576D
O	◒	Northwest Hwy	Barrington	Lake	26,200	CN		Single	260514W
P	‡	Stearns Rd	Bartlett	DuPage	N/A	CN		Single	260533B
Q	◒†‡	Dauberman Rd	Big Rock	Kane	New Crossing	BNSF		Single	New crossing
R	‡	Army Trail Rd	Bloomingdale	DuPage	29,300	CN		Single	289891V
S		Western Ave	Blue Island	Cook	8,300	CSX	GS17	Single	163415H
T		Maple Ave	Brookfield	Cook	7,800	BNSF	GS24	Single	079503P
U	*	Burnham Ave	Burnham/ Chicago	Cook	14,200	NS; SSL; CSX	CCFP	Multiple	478708J; 163649L; 867226H
V		Ridgeland Ave	Chicago Ridge	Cook	19,100	IHB		Single	163580T
W		Des Plaines River	Des Plaines	Cook	21,600	UP		Single	174107H
X		Rand Rd	Des Plaines	Cook	22,500	UP		Single	174106B
Y	●	Touhy Ave	Des Plaines	Cook	33,400	UP	CCFP	Single	174087Y
Z		Western Ave	Dixmoor	Cook	7,700	IHB		Single	326905D
AA	◒ *	Dolton-Riverdale	Dolton/ Riverdale/ Chicago	Cook	2,150-7450	CSX; IHB; UP; NS	CCFP; GS23A; WA11	Multiple	163613D; 326886B; 167451S; 167450K; 163612W; 326894T; 163611P; 163609N; 163610H; 840146L; 840147T; 522338C
BB	◒*‡	Maple Ave and Fairview Ave	Downers Grove	DuPage	6,350-11,100	BNSF		Multiple	079533G, 079532A
CC	◒	Grand Ave	Elmwood Park	Cook	20,500	Metra	CCFP	Single	372131E
DD		95th St	Evergreen Park	Cook	28,100	CSX	CCFP	Single	163433F
EE	◒	25th Ave, Belmont Ave, Franklin Ave	Franklin Park	Cook	23,375	Metra		Single	372138C
FF	◒†‡	Taft Ave Connector	Franklin Park	Cook	9,700 (forecast)	Metra; CP		Multiple	New crossings
GG	◒*‡	IL 83, IL 120, Center St, Lake St, Shorewood Rd, Hook Dr	Grayslake/ Round Lake Beach	Lake	5,200-18,000	CN		Multiple	689718X; 689719E; 689720Y; 689725H; 689727W; 693744U
HH	‡	IL 137/ Buckley Rd	Green Oaks	Lake	19,200	UP		Single	176818J
II	‡	Old McHenry Rd	Hawthorn Woods	Lake	19,200	CN		Single	260503J
JJ		Laraway Rd	Joliet	Will	10,700	UP		Single	289771E
KK		31st St	La Grange Park	Cook	15,700	IHB	GS13; CCFP	Single	326859E
LL	*	First and Fifth Ave	Maywood	Cook	4,000-23,000	UP	GS12; GS8A; CCFP	Multiple	173996K; 173998Y
MM		Dempster St	Morton Grove	Cook	39,000	Metra		Single	386399T
NN	◒	IL 60-83	Mundelein	Lake	12,400	CN		Single	260496B
OO	◒	Gougar Rd	New Lenox	Will	6,450	CN		Single	260611F
PP		Central Ave	Oak Lawn	Cook	15,100	IHB	GS4	Single	163578S
QQ		Des Plaines River	River Grove	Cook	28,400	Metra		Single	372135G
RR		Thatcher Ave	River Grove	Cook	26,300	Metra		Single	372133T
SS		Harlem Ave	Riverside/ Berwyn	Cook	29,100	BNSF	GS18; CCFP	Single	079493L
TT	◒ ‡	Nesler/Bowes	South Elgin	Kane	6,800	CN		Single	289917V
UU		80th Ave	Tinley Park	Cook	20,900	Metra		Single	608953Y

◒ Planning underway. ● Planning and/or construction underway and fully funded.

* Indicates groups of crossings that are prioritized because of their corridor-level impact or because they are operationally linked. Not all crossings in a group will necessarily be separated.

** This crossing is included due to the high volume of pedestrians.

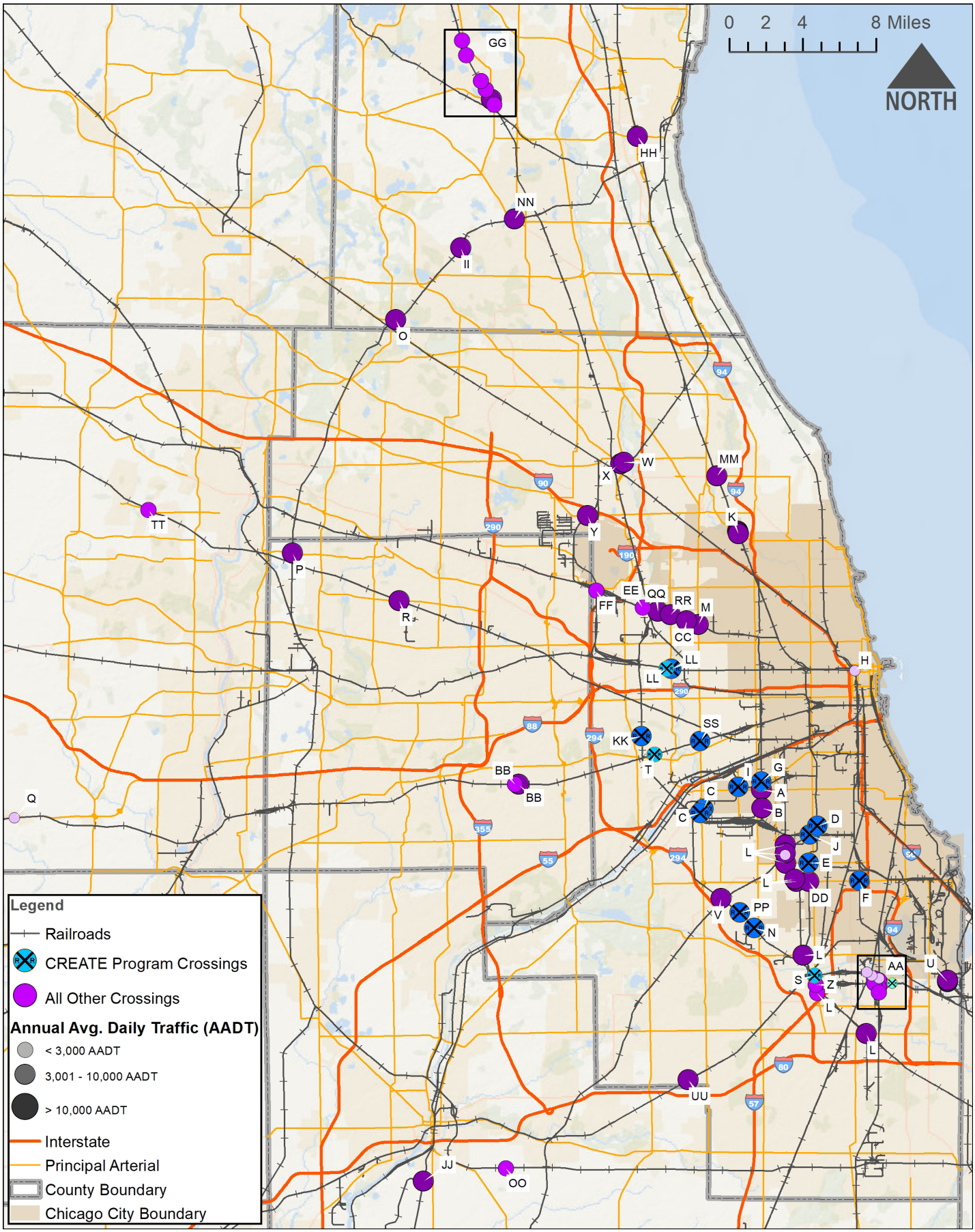
† New roads that would require a separated railroad crossing.

‡ Further study required to determine applicability of separation or other measure.

Note: CCFP indicates a Cook County Freight Plan priority grade crossing. GS indicates a CREATE Program grade separation project. WA indicates a CREATE Program Western Avenue Corridor project.

Table data sources: Illinois Department of Transportation, Illinois Commerce Commission, CREATE Program, and Federal Railroad Administration.

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