

## Burnham Avenue Railroad Crossing Study Public Information Meeting #2 Summary

The second public information meeting for the Burnham Avenue Railroad Crossing Study was held on Tuesday, October 14, 2025, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Burnham School District 154-5. The objective of this meeting was to provide attendees with a study update, present the recommended alternatives to be carried forward, and obtain public input. This meeting followed an open-house format with exhibit boards on display, a looping voice-over presentation and project team members available to answer questions. A Spanish interpreter was present for attendees in need of interpretation services. In total, 10 people attended the meeting.

Attendees were invited to provide feedback via comment cards, as well as scannable QR codes that allowed them to provide direct feedback on each exhibit shown at the meeting. All materials available at the meeting were published on the project website on Thursday, October 16, 2025, two days following the public information meeting.

There were two stations at the public information meeting that attendees could participate in, a seated area to view a voiceover presentation and a walkable area with exhibit boards and project team members available to answer questions. Information for each station consisted of:

1. Station #1 – Exhibit Boards
  - Project Team and Study Group
  - Purpose and Need
  - Project Development and Phase I Study Timeline
  - On-going Adjacent Projects
  - Alternative 1: At-Grade Alternative (No-Build)
  - Alternative 2: Overpass (Birdseye and Residential Views)
  - Alternative 3: Underpass (Birdseye and Residential Views)
  - Alternative 4: Underpass with CSX Relocate (Birdseye and Residential Views)
  - Alternative 5: Split “Tee” Overpass (Birdseye and Residential Views)
  - Alternative 6: Split “Tee” Underpass (Birdseye and Residential Views)
  - Burnham Avenue Proposed Typical Sections
  - Preferred Alternative Screening: Criteria and Factors
  - Spanish Exhibits QR Code
2. Station #2 – Voiceover Presentation
  - Project Team
  - Project Location and Existing Environmental Resources
  - Existing Conditions Overview
  - Project Need
  - Purpose and Need



- Alternatives Analysis Process
  - i. Timeline
  - ii. Steps Breakdown
- Next Steps

Printed materials available for attendees included:

- Project fact sheet
- Comment cards

#### Public Comments

A total of 2 comment cards were completed and collected during public information meeting #2. A summary of the feedback received from the comment cards and the project team discussions are provided below:

- After viewing the presentation, an attendee noted that current downed gate times often exceed 4 hours per day and can reach up to 6 hours on some days.
- An attendee shared that due to the increased amount of downed gate time, railroad-induced vehicle queues sometimes extend further south beyond 141<sup>st</sup> St.
- Several attendees indicated that any of the proposed alternatives would be better than the no-build alternative.
- An attendee suggested adding an access road for emergency vehicles or a frontage road for all traffic between S. Chippewa Avenue and 141st Street. They noted that a frontage road could improve traffic flow in the study area by allowing Burnham Elementary School traffic to use S. Green Bay Avenue while non-school traffic uses the frontage road.
- After discussing potential drainage and constructability challenges with an underpass, an attendee expressed a preference for an overpass instead of an underpass. They noted that an overpass would allow current residents to remain in their homes and is viewed as more cost effective than an underpass.
- An attendee indicated a preference for Alternative 5 (Split “Tee” Overpass) because it would allow for the potential provision of a frontage road between 141<sup>st</sup> Street and S. Chippewa Avenue.
- An attendee requested that the project team take school bus access to and from Burnham Elementary School into account when identifying the preferred alternative.

#### Alternative Analysis Survey Responses

A total of 3 surveys were completed on the alternatives. A summary of the results is provided below.

- One attendee indicated Alternative #2 (Overpass) to be strongly preferred and did not ranking the other 5 alternatives.
- Another attendee ranked the alternatives in the following order of preference:
  1. Alternative #5 (Split “Tee” Overpass)
  2. Alternative #2 (Overpass)
  3. Alternative #3 (Underpass)



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- 4. Tie between Alternative #1 (No-Build) and Alternative #4 (Underpass with CSX Relocate)
- 5. Alternative #6 (Split “Tee” Underpass).
- The third respondent ranked the alternatives as follows:
  1. Alternative #5 (Split “Tee” Overpass)
  2. Tie between Alternative #1 (No-Build) and Alternative #6 (Split “Tee” Underpass)
  3. Tie among Alternative #2 (Overpass), Alternative #3 (Underpass) and Alternative #4 (Underpass with CSX Relocate).

#### Meeting Promotion and Outreach

To promote public information meeting #2, the project team distributed meeting notifications and engaged the public via the following methods. Please note below that three (3) weeks before refers to the week of September 22, 2025, two (2) weeks before refers to the week of September 29, 2025, and one (1) week before refers to the week of October 6, 2025.

- Potentially Impacted Business Owner and Property Owner Meetings
  - Virtual meetings were held with potentially impacted business owners three (3) weeks prior and property owners (by request) two (2) weeks prior to the public information meeting.
- Public Notice
  - Public notices were published three (3) weeks and two (2) weeks in advance of the public information meeting in the Citizen South Suburban and Chicago Tribune.
- Canvassing
  - The project team canvassed local businesses on Friday, October 10, 2025.
- Location Advertisement
  - A banner was displayed at the school where the meeting was held advertising the public information meeting.

#### Project Team Meeting Attendance

##### Village of Burnham

- Mayor Robert Polk
- Travis Claybrooks, Trustee
- Jeffrey Hodges, Trustee

##### Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways

- Tara Orbon
- Katie Bell
- Jennifer Skrebo
- Charles Roberts

##### Mott MacDonald

- Kundai Mugabe



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### Morreale Communications

- Michael Schuch
- Ashni Pabley

### Benesch

- Ryan Cook

### Meeting Images



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