

## Burnham Avenue Grade Separation

Community Advisory Group Meeting #1







## Agenda

- Project Team & Community Advisory Group Introductions
- Project Overview
- Project Process
- Outreach
- Next Steps
- Question & Answer





#### **Project Team**

#### Village of Burnham

Robert Polk, Mayor

## Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways

- Katie Bell, Project Studies Manager
- Sam Wright, Transportation Planner

#### Mott MacDonald

Kevin Bollinger, Project Manager

#### Morreale Communications

• Kyle Duff, Project Manager







#### **Community Advisory Group (CAG)**

#### This group consists of:

- Businesses
- Community Groups
- Transportation Agencies
- Railroad Representatives
- Other Stakeholders

#### **Expectations**

- Represent the community and facilitate the discussion of issues and opportunities on behalf of constituents
- Input from all participants in the process is valued and considered.
- Keep an open mind and participate openly, honestly, and respectfully.
- Treat each other with respect and dignity.
- The project must progress at a reasonable pace, based on the project schedule.





# CAG Member Introductions





## **Project Overview**





#### **Project Background**

- Project focuses on eliminating the at-grade crossing near the intersection of Burnham Avenue and Brainard Avenue, where the roadway intersects with five (5) railroad tracks
- This area experiences 14,200\* vehicles per day and over 3 hours of downed gate time per day
- The at-grade crossing results in safety, congestion and mobility issues for the community and commuters.
- Funded by Surface Transportation Project (STP) Shared Regional Fund administered by Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP)







## **Project Area Map**



#### **Project Purpose & Need**

#### The Burnham Avenue Grade Separation Project is needed to:

- Address vehicular, pedestrian and railroad safety by eliminating five railroad at-grade crossings with Burnham Avenue and the sidewalk along the roadway.
- Reduce congestion and improve mobility within the Village of Burnham and City of Chicago.











#### **Project Benefits**









This project will enhance the community's overall quality of life by improving safety, mobility, and operational issues while reducing environmental impacts associated with the railroad crossings at Burnham Avenue south of Brainard Avenue.





#### **Existing Projects in the Area**

- Burnham Resurfacing Project (Brainard Avenue to 159<sup>th</sup> Street)
  - Led by IDOT
- Brainard Avenue Improvement Project (Muskegon Avenue to State Line Road)
  - Led by IDOT
  - Burnham Multimodal Connector
  - Led by DoTH
  - Planned Burnham Greenway Trail
  - Led by DoTH







Project Study Area

## Questions?





## Project Process





#### **Project Study Group**





















#### **Project Development Process**

The Burnham Avenue Grade Separation project will follow IDOT's project development process from planning to construction.







#### **Phase I Study Process**

#### ANALYZE THE EXISTING CONDITIONS

The project team evaluates the existing conditions within the corridor to identify the infrastructure issues. WE ARE HERE

#### DEVELOP THE STUDY'S PURPOSE AND NEED

The Purpose and Need identifies the issues and concerns for the project and why the project is necessary. The Purpose and Need is used to guide the development of the project.

#### DEVELOP AND ANALYZING ALTERNATIVES

The project team identifies potential alternatives and develops criteria to evaluate the proposed designs.

#### EVALUATE POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND BENEFITS OF THE ALTERNATIVES

Upon the selection of recommended alternatives, the project team evaluates potential impacts and benefits of the proposed improvements.

SELECT A PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE
TO MOVE FORWARD TO DETAILED
DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION





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### Phase I Project Timeline







#### **Project Evaluation Criteria**

A variety of factors will be considered when looking at different alternatives. Factors considered will include but are not limited to:

Safety



**Traffic Operations** 



**Bicycle/Pedestrian Access** 



**Drainage & Utility Impacts** 



**Railroad Operations** 



**Environmental Impacts** 





















#### **Data Collection**

## Data collection will include methods shown here



**Traffic Counts** 

Subsurface Utility Locating

Geotechnical Field Work

NEPA/Environmental Field Studies





#### **Environmental Studies**

- All work performed during this project will be in accordance with State, Local, and Federal requirements, including the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).
- A primary goal is to ensure the project fits its surroundings and preserves scenic, aesthetic, historic, and environmental resources while addressing safety and mobility.







## Questions?





## Outreach





#### Stakeholder Identification and Inclusivity

- Project will follow IDOT's Context Sensitive Solutions Policy
- Stakeholders identified:
  - Residents
  - Business Owners
  - Community Representatives
  - Schools
  - Neighborhood Groups
  - Hospitals and Emergency Services
  - Special Interest Groups
- Partner with community leaders to ensure hard-toreach residents are informed about the project and develop bilingual project materials for Spanish speaking population







#### Public Information and Communication Avenues

#### Ways to receive information:

- Project website
  - www.BurnhamGradeSeparation.com
- Public meetings
- Newsletters

#### Ways to provide input:

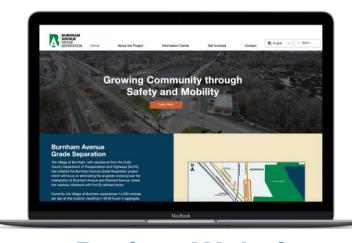
- Submit comments through:
  - www.BurnhamGradeSeparation.com/contact
  - info@BurnhamGradeSeparation.com
  - (708) 232-8803
- Attend a public meeting





**Public Meetings** 

**Project Email** 



**Project Website** 





CAG members are encouraged to help promote public meetings!

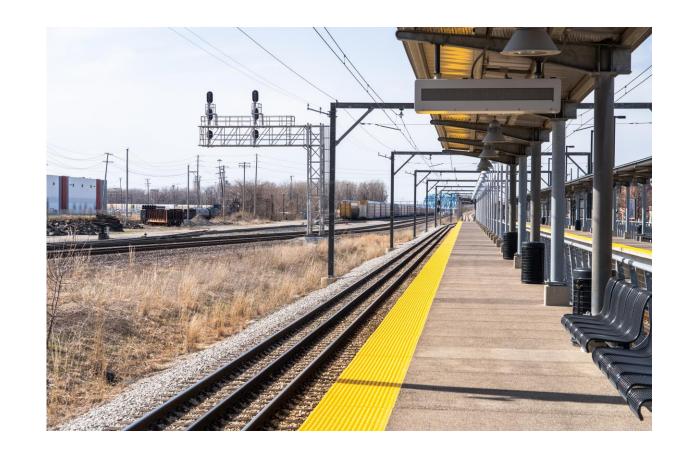
# **Next Steps**





#### **Next Steps**

- Public Meeting #1:
  - Date: Wednesday, July 27
  - Time: 6pm to 8pm
  - Location: Burnham
     School District 154-5
- Advance to developing and analyzing the alternatives







# Question & Answer







#### Thank You!

We appreciate you taking the time to join us!



