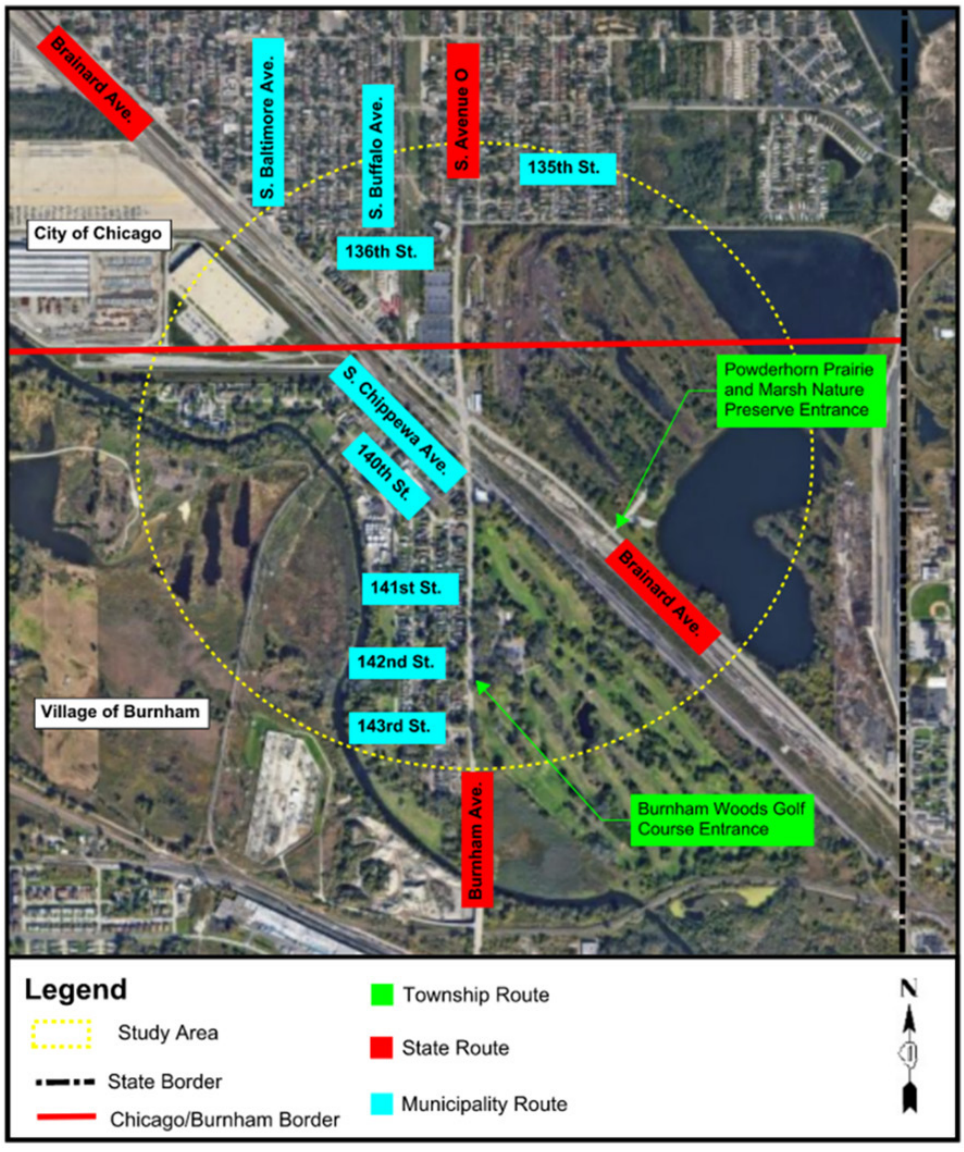
BURNHAM AVENUE RAILROAD CROSSING STUDY

PROJECT NEWSLETTER: JANUARY 2025

The Burnham Avenue Railroad Crossing Study (BARCS) Phase I Study began in 2021. The project aims to improve safety and mobility at the railroad crossings on Burnham Avenue. This newsletter provides an update on the project's Purpose and Need, alternatives analysis process, and next steps.

Project Study Area



Village of Burnham

To learn more about the project or submit questions or comments visit: www.burnhamrailroadstudy.com

Purpose and Need

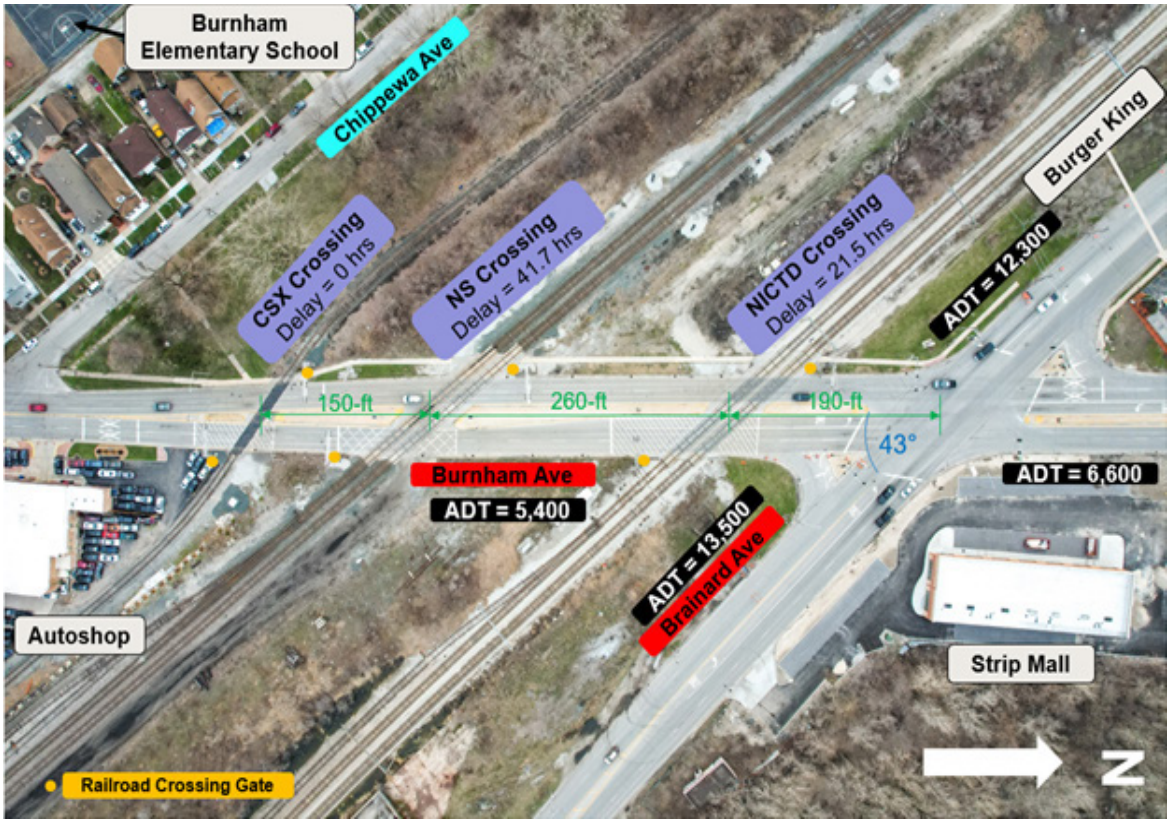
In 2017, the railroad crossings on Burnham Avenue were found to cause an average daily downed gate time of over four hours. In 2023, the railroad crossings on Burnham Avenue caused over 63 hours of motorist delay per weekday. The purpose of the project is to reduce delays and improve mobility, safety, and operations for all roadway users in the project study area, specifically proximate residents of the City of Chicago and the Village of Burnham, at the existing at-grade railroad crossings where Burnham Avenue intersects with five railroad tracks (involving three controlled crossings) located just south of Brainard Avenue, as shown in the figure below.

The project is needed is to improve transportation and multimodal demands (i.e., mobility and congestion) and safety. The downed gate time and resulting congestion negatively affect:

- Emergency service providers
- Vehicles and adjacent properties
- Mass transit providers (i.e., Pace and CTA)
- Bicyclists and pedestrians

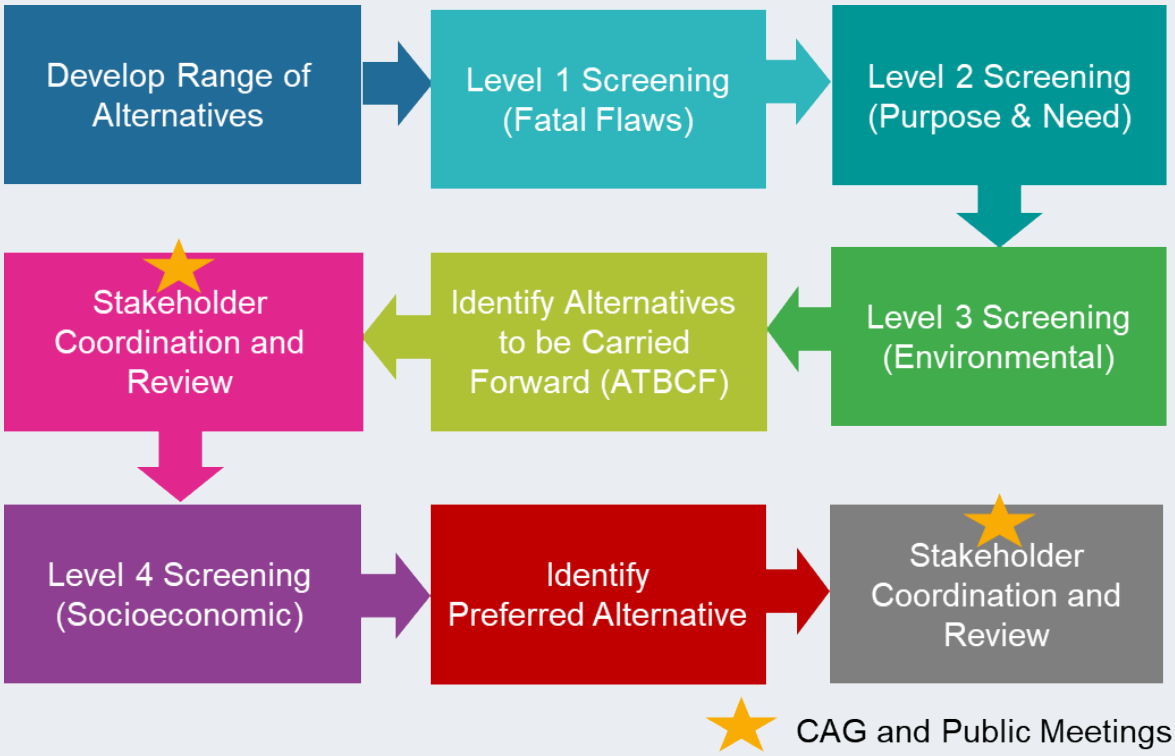
The Purpose and Need was developed through technical analyses, agency coordination, and community and public input. It was approved by the required state and federal transportation and resource agencies on February 22, 2024. Visit the project website at **www.burnhamrailroadstudy.com** to read the approved Purpose and Need document.

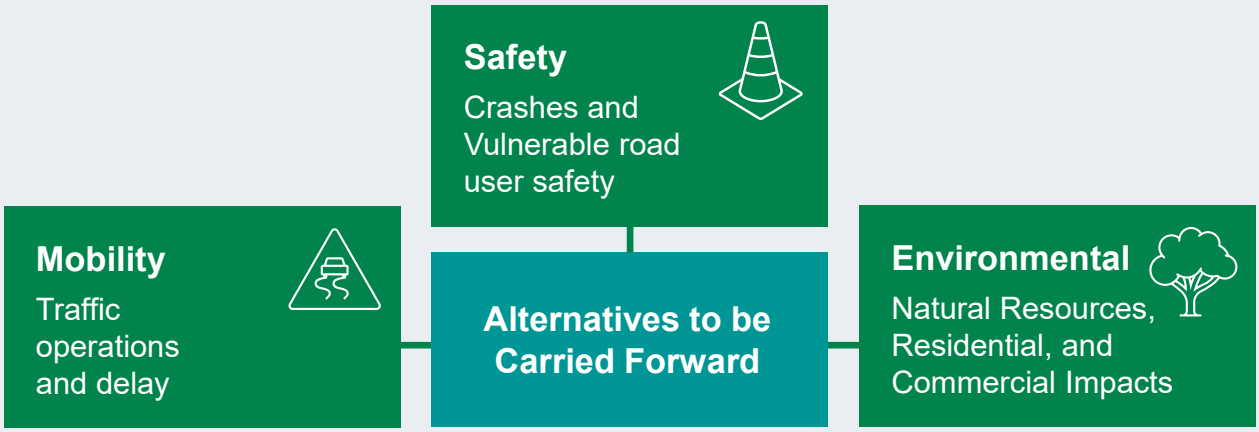
Railroad Crossing Map



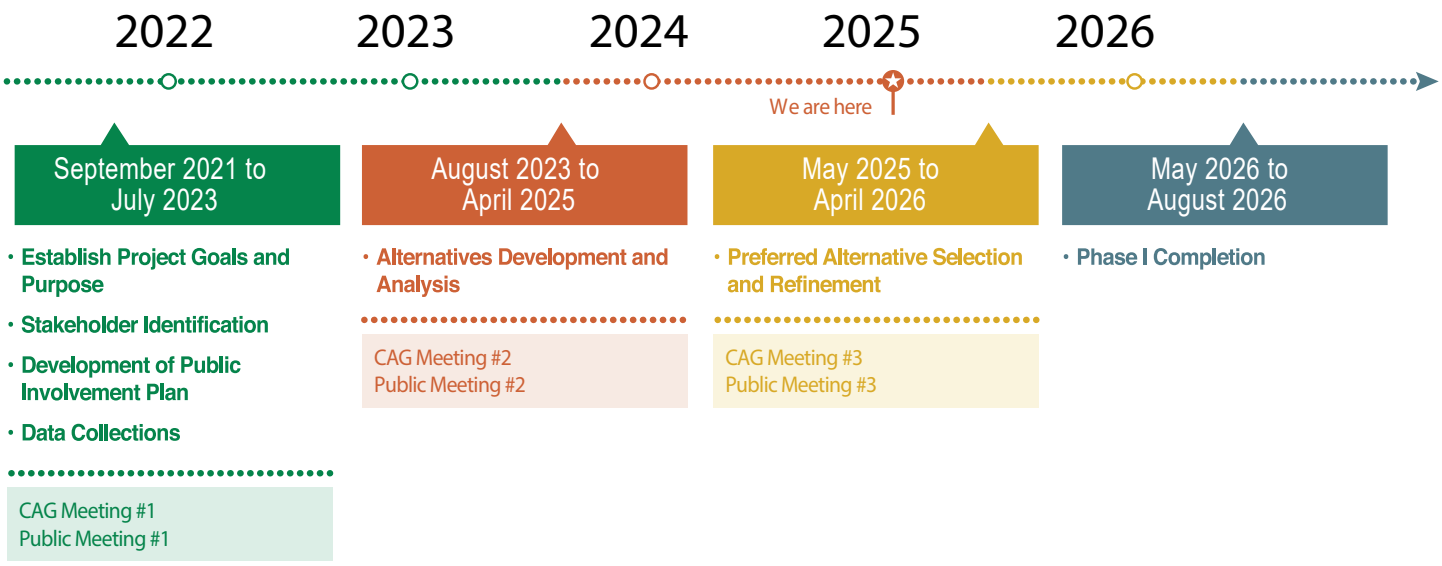
Alternatives Analysis Process

The BARCS Phase I study identified and evaluated a range of alternatives based on input from local stakeholders, public agencies, and the project team's institutional knowledge. The two figures below provide an overview of the alternatives analysis process and the evaluation criteria. **At this stage, there are currently two overpass and two underpass alternatives that the project team is recommending to carry forward. These alternatives will be presented for public review and comment during a public information meeting in spring 2025.**





Next Steps



The project team will hold Community Advisory Group Meeting #2 and Public Meeting #2 in the first quarter of 2025. These meetings will present more details on the alternatives analysis process and the recommended alternatives to be carried forward.

After each meeting, the project team will review and consider all input received to refine the alternatives to be carried forward, identify the level 4 screening criteria, and begin the process of selecting a preferred alternative.

Involved

If you would like to contact the project team and provide feedback on the BARCS Phase I Study:

Submit comments through our website on the **"Contact Us"** page

Email us at **info@Burnhamrailroadstudy.com**

Leave a message at **(708) 862-9150**