



WESTSIDE GATEWAY/ OGDEN JUNCTION

WA1

FACTSHEET | AUGUST 2025

About WA1

The Westside Gateway (WA1) project will invest \$170 million to improve a 1.9 mile-long segment of the Union Pacific rail line along Rockwell Avenue between Fulton Street on the north and 16th Street on the south. Improvements include replacement of 14 (of 18) viaducts, rehabilitation of two viaducts and permanent removal of two viaducts. All viaducts and bridges will be upgraded to modern design standards.

The project will enhance freight and passenger rail and community connectivity, resulting in safety upgrades and improving aesthetics of viaduct passageways for pedestrians and cyclists traveling on local streets and sidewalks.

Location



Along the elevated Union Pacific rail line between Carroll Avenue and 18th Street, east of South Farrar Drive (Central Chicago, just west of Downtown)

Chicago, IL Community Areas

East Garfield Park, Humboldt Park, Lower West Side, Near West Side, North Lawndale, West Town, including numerous federally designated Opportunity Zones

Other Communities Benefited

Communities along the Metra UP-West line in Cook, DuPage, and Kane Counties



**Project
Location
Map**

Daily Trains Affected



FREIGHT TRAINS

39

METRA UP-WEST

59

Rail Infrastructure Improvements

- ✓ Addition of new, state-of-the-art bi-directional computerized traffic control system (TCS).
- ✓ Upgraded rail switches (from manual to automatic.)
- ✓ Additional control points at Taylor Street, Ogden Avenue, and 16th Street.
- ✓ Crosstie replacement, "surfacing" to improve track foundation and alignment and additional tracks to support fluidity and capacity.



Community Benefits

SAFETY BENEFITS

Current infrastructure conditions make it difficult to maintain proper lighting, pedestrian accessibility, vegetation and aesthetics. Planned investments will improve safety for the public and railroad employees.

- The Westside Gateway project will support community enhancement through brighter lighting, new sidewalks, roadway paving, landscaping and bridge support structure replacement.
- Rail safety will be enhanced through maintaining train traffic on elevated structures, rather than detouring on other routes that have more street level crossings to navigate in surrounding communities.

ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

Project improvements will positively impact environmental factors on the corridor, including:

- **Air quality** - Improvements from this project will reduce the time that locomotives spend idling, starting, and stopping, as well as the frequency of at-grade crossings by trains. This will reduce rail and road emissions and greenhouse gases that impact human health.
- **Energy** - The street lighting under all of the affected viaduct structures will be replaced with modern, energy-efficient fixtures.

WORKFORCE BENEFITS

Employment opportunities will be provided for local and union workers, as well as disadvantaged and minority businesses.

- This project will include small businesses, and all construction bid and railroad work will be performed by union members.
- The project will focus on meaningful project specific and general railroad employment opportunities for the local community that provides career development, including good-paying jobs.

PASSENGER RAIL SERVICE BENEFITS

While this corridor does not directly serve Metra passengers, the freight along this corridor does connect to passenger routes. The Metra Union Pacific-West line will experience decreased delays by allowing freight trains to enter and exit shared tracks more quickly, improving commuter train service reliability.

