

# CHICAGO RAIL FUTURES STUDY II

## RAIL'S REGIONAL IMPACT

### INTRODUCTION

Rail transportation is critical to the Chicago region's economy. Congestion in Chicago's rail network negatively affects local and regional community mobility and quality of life, passenger rail performance, and the national supply chain due to our position as the hub of North America's rail system. Rail infrastructure investments can directly improve performance of the national rail system as well as the mobility of passengers and freight within the region, while also addressing negative local impacts that can accompany transportation infrastructure.

In 2003, the Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT) completed the *Chicago Freight Rail Futures Study*, which provided a comprehensive picture of the economic impacts of the rail industry for the City and region. The study's findings supported the increased investment in rail infrastructure, including the Chicago Region Environmental and Transportation Efficiency (CREATE) Program, a first-of-its kind public-private partnership to modernize the region's freight and passenger rail network.

CDOT has commissioned a new study to examine the current impacts and needs of freight and passenger rail in the region. This study, *Chicago Rail Futures Study II*, will document how the regional rail system has evolved in recent decades, investigate rail benefits and impacts to users and residents including local equity issues, and assess current opportunities for rail-related infrastructure investments in the region including the future of the CREATE Program.

*For 150 years, Chicago has been our nation's rail hub due to its critical location at the nexus of the North American railroad network*

### STUDY GOALS



**Illustrate** the relationship between rail and the regional economy



**Understand** the benefits and impacts of rail to local residents, businesses and users



**Quantify** the value of investments made, planned, and potentially needed in the future



**Support** the local, regional, and national conversation about rail investment



**Position** the region for equitable and effective future rail investments

### STUDY ACTIVITIES



**Outreach** with the general public, business interests, civic and community leaders, elected officials, and other stakeholders



**Research papers** examining the regional rail system's operations, impacts, and needs



**Scenario analysis** on the rail system and its impacts to the regional economy



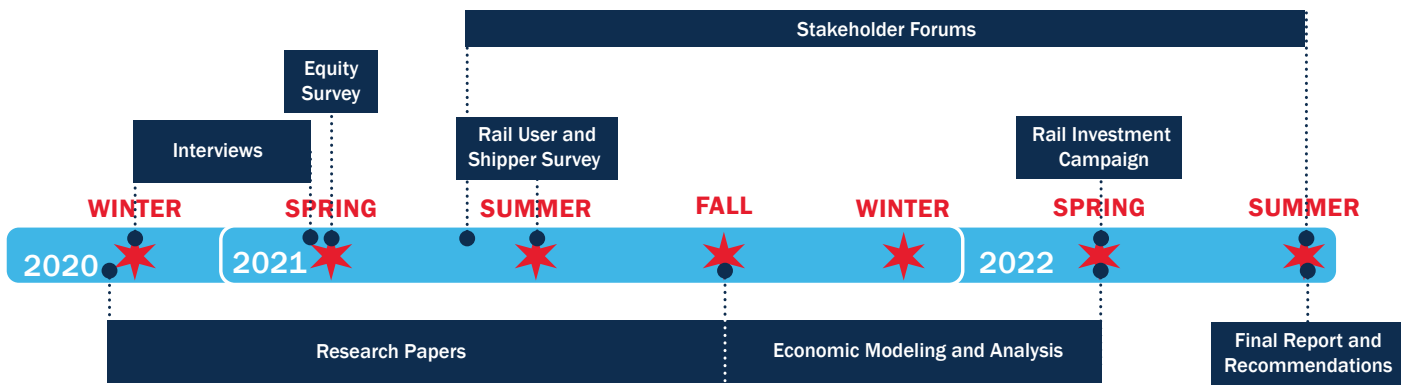
**Equity and local impact analysis** of rail and communities, businesses, and users

**Documenting** existing conditions and historical trends on the Chicago region's rail system

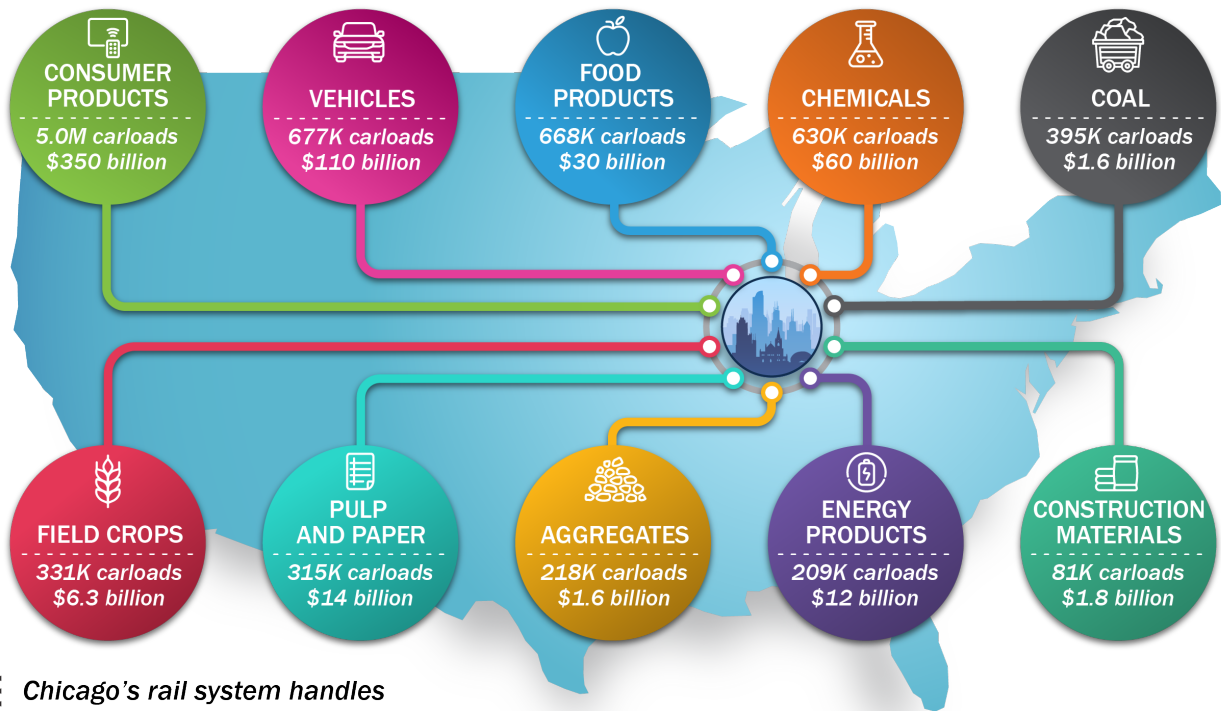
**Analyzing** rail-served and other industries to understand changes to and current state of the Chicago region's industrial economy

**Reviewing** the CREATE Program to date, including accomplishments and next steps

# STUDY TIMELINE



# CHICAGO IS NORTH AMERICA'S PRIMARY RAIL HUB



Chicago's rail system handles

**47%** OF INTERMODAL RAIL CONTAINERS  
& **28%** OF RAIL CARS IN THE U.S.

**\$641 BILLION** WORTH OF GOODS EACH YEAR

Source: Annual Carloads and Value, 2017 STB Confidential Waybill Sample.

## GET INVOLVED

Your participation and feedback are key to the development of the Chicago Rail Futures Study II. Here are the ways you'll be able to get involved.

- Sign-up for the study's contact list to receive updates
- Participate in study surveys
- Attend a forum or presentation