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The meeting will begin promptly at 6 p.m.

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Virtual Public Information Meeting

April 21, 2021



- 
- 1. Virtual Meeting Format**
 - 2. Introductions**
 - 3. Project Overview**
 - 4. Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Overview**
 - 5. Draft Problem Statement**
 - 6. Draft Purpose & Need**
 - 7. Breakout Sessions**
 - 8. Question & Answer**
 - 9. Next Steps**

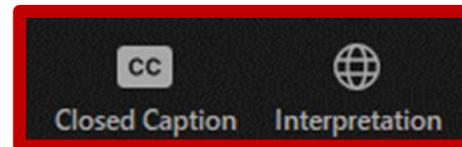
VIRTUAL MEETING FORMAT



Audio de la presentación disponible en español

Para escuchar al intérprete en español usted debe ingresar a la reunión a través del webinar de Zoom, no a través de Facebook o por teléfono.

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HOW TO SUBMIT A COMMENT

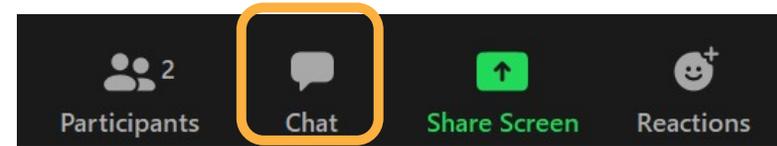


We value your feedback!

Click the chat icon at the bottom of your screen to provide your feedback and ask questions

Other ways to provide comments:

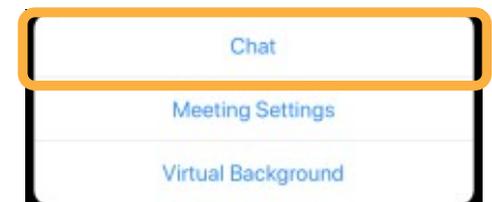
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Desktop view



View of chat window



Mobile view



INTRODUCTIONS

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INTRODUCTIONS

Project Team



KNIGHT

Engineers & Architects



GSG CONSULTANTS, INC.
Engineers & Scientists



ALTUSWORKS INC.

INTRODUCTIONS

Presenters and Moderators



Cecilia Diaz

Cook County Department of
Transportation & Highways
Planner



Clay Shipley

Knight Engineering
Vice President



Scott Brejcha

Knight Engineering
Senior Project Manager



Bill Eldringhoff

Knight Engineering
Senior Civil Engineer



Tammy Wierciak

Metro Strategies
Vice President



Mandi Jennings

Metro Strategies
Senior Project Manager



Joe Chiczewski

ESI Consultants, Ltd.
President



Chris Leow

ESI Consultants, Ltd.
Engineering Design Manager



PROJECT OVERVIEW

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PROJECT OVERVIEW

History

2005

Metra accident at Grand Avenue Crossing

2007

Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT)
Feasibility Study

2008

National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) Safety
Recommendation and Mandate

2011-15

Crossing Safety Improvements

2020

Notice to Proceed - Phase I Preliminary Engineering
Study

PROJECT OVERVIEW



A grade separation is a highway or railway crossing that uses an underpass or overpass by means of raising or lowering one surface where it meets another to prevent conflicting flows of traffic. Grade separations are often implemented to increase safety amongst opposing traffic for vehicles, bicycles and pedestrian alike.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Examples of Grade Separation



A grade separation is a potential alternative being evaluated for further consideration. Potential grade separation options include, but are not limited to:

① Street over the railroad

② Street under the railroad

③ Combination of lowering street and raising the railroad

④ Railroad over street

⑤ Railroad under street

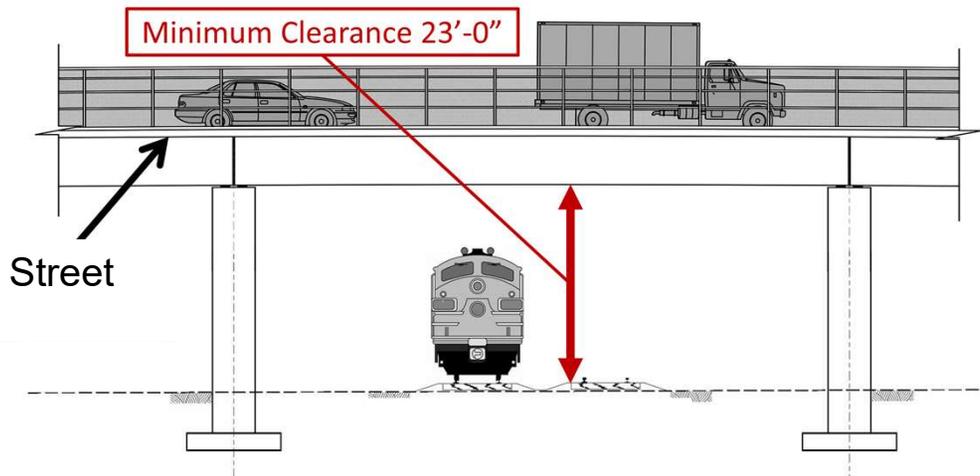
⑥ Combination of lowering railroad under and raising street

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Examples of Grade Separation



Roadway Overpass Example*



**Drawing is an example of a typical cross section*

PROJECT OVERVIEW

*Project Objective/
Potential Benefits*



Increased Safety



Quicker Response Time from the Fire and Police Departments



Improved Mobility for All Modes of Transportation



Reduced Congestion and Delays



Reduced Vehicle-Train Conflict

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Project Timeline

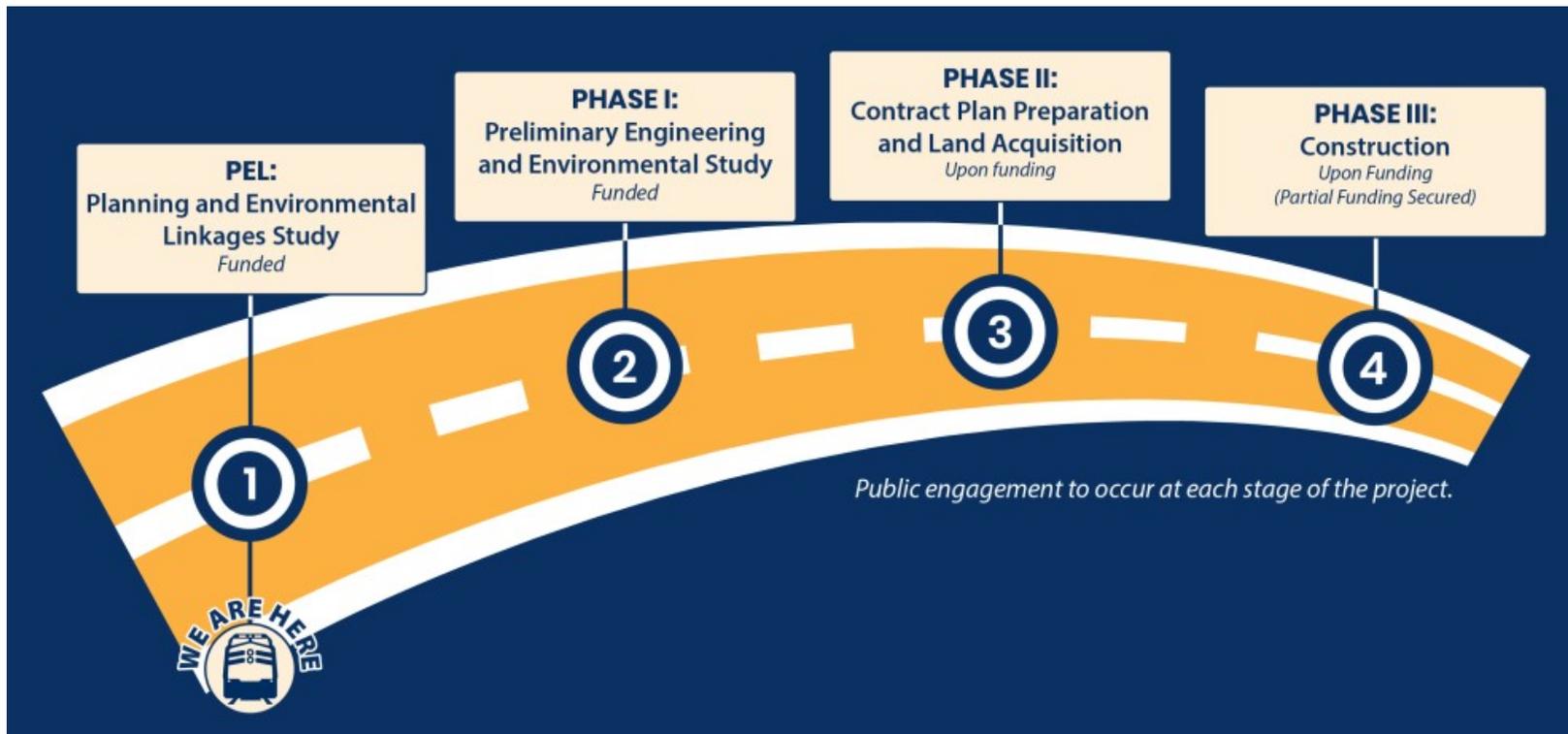


CAG	Community Advisory Group Meeting	PUBLIC COMMENTS CLOSE	Targeted Public Comments Closing
PIM	Public Information Meeting	DESIGN APPROVAL	Targeted Design Approval
PH	Public Hearing		

Subject to change

PROJECT OVERVIEW

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT PROCESS





PLANNING & ENVIRONMENTAL LINKAGES (PEL) PROCESS OVERVIEW

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WHY USE PLANNING & ENVIRONMENTAL LINKAGES (PEL)?



WHY USE PEL?



Public/ Stakeholder Input

Provides the public with an early opportunity to provide meaningful input into projects



Analysis

Examines transportation, environmental, community and economic goals in the planning process



Collaboration

A collaborative approach to transportation decision-making



Efficiency

Delivers an efficient and smooth decision-making process that encourages working relationships between local government, agencies and transportation departments



Information

Information developed during planning is used to *inform and expedite* the environmental review process



DRAFT PROBLEM STATEMENT

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DRAFT PROBLEM STATEMENT PROCESS



**PUBLIC
INVOLVEMENT**

**COMMUNITY
CONCERNS**

**TRANSPORTATION
NEEDS**

**PROBLEM
STATEMENT**

**TECHNICAL
EVALUATION**

**PURPOSE
AND NEED**

DRAFT PROBLEM STATEMENT



The Grand Avenue crossing includes the following surrounding land uses:



Residential



Commercial



Institutional



Open Space



Transit

The transportation problems surrounding the Grand Avenue crossing to be solved by this project include:

- Traffic congestion / Reliability
- Multi-modal transportation
- Safety
- Access

Solutions should include community connectivity and character as well as congestion relief for all modes of travel:

- Vehicles
- Pedestrians
- First Responders
- Transit
- Rail



DRAFT PURPOSE & NEED

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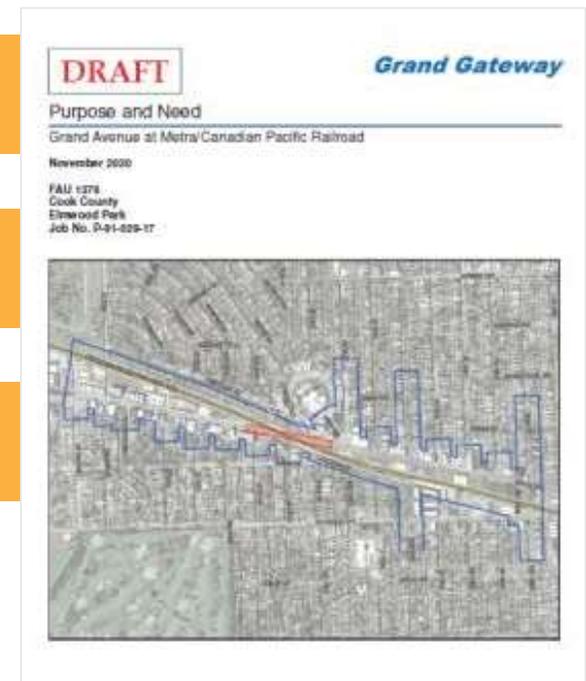
DRAFT PURPOSE & NEED

The project **Purpose & Need (P&N)** is a technical document, which presents a concise introduction of transportation system needs as a result of **system limitations, deficiencies, service and operations.**

»»» Outline and justification

»»» Draft P&N will be revisited by CAG

»»» FHWA and IDOT review as part of the PEL process



DRAFT PURPOSE & NEED



»» PROJECT NEED

- As the suburban population of the Chicago metropolitan area grows, transportation **usage is expected to increase** on Grand Avenue and the Metra/Canadian Pacific Railroad.
- In addition to future traffic demand, factors contributing to **safety deficiencies** include:
 - the acute angle of the Grand Avenue intersection and the rail tracks,
 - the long distance required to traverse the tracks.
- Subsequent to a **severe train/vehicle crash** that occurred in November 2005, the National Transportation Safety Board's official safety **recommendation** to the Governor of Illinois and the Illinois Commerce Commission was that **a grade separation be constructed** at the Grand Avenue grade crossing.

DRAFT PURPOSE & NEED



»» PROJECT PURPOSE

The purpose of the project is to **alleviate congestion** and **improve safety** and **mobility** roadway traffic users at the Grand Avenue and Metra/Canadian Pacific Railroad crossing. In addition to improving safety, project improvements are expected to **increase mobility** throughout the region.

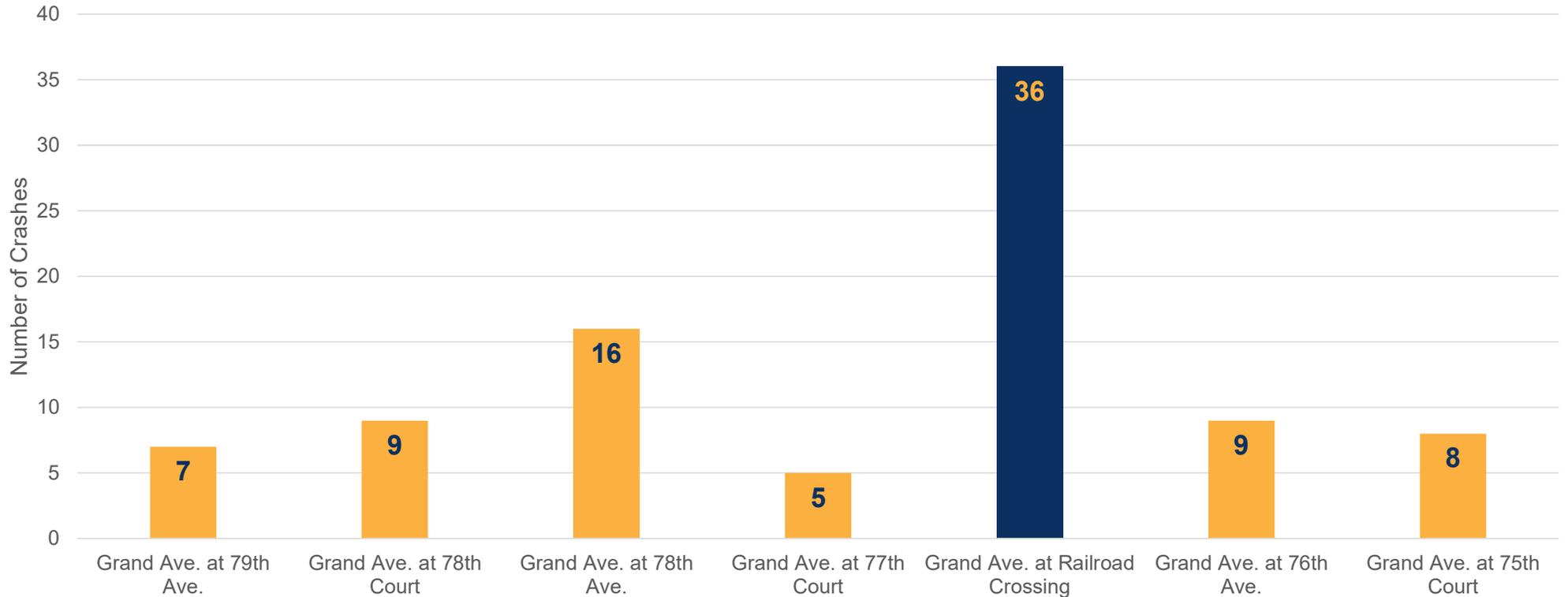
PROJECT OVERVIEW

Crash Data Summary



CRASH STATISTICS BY INTERSECTION

(2014 to 2018)

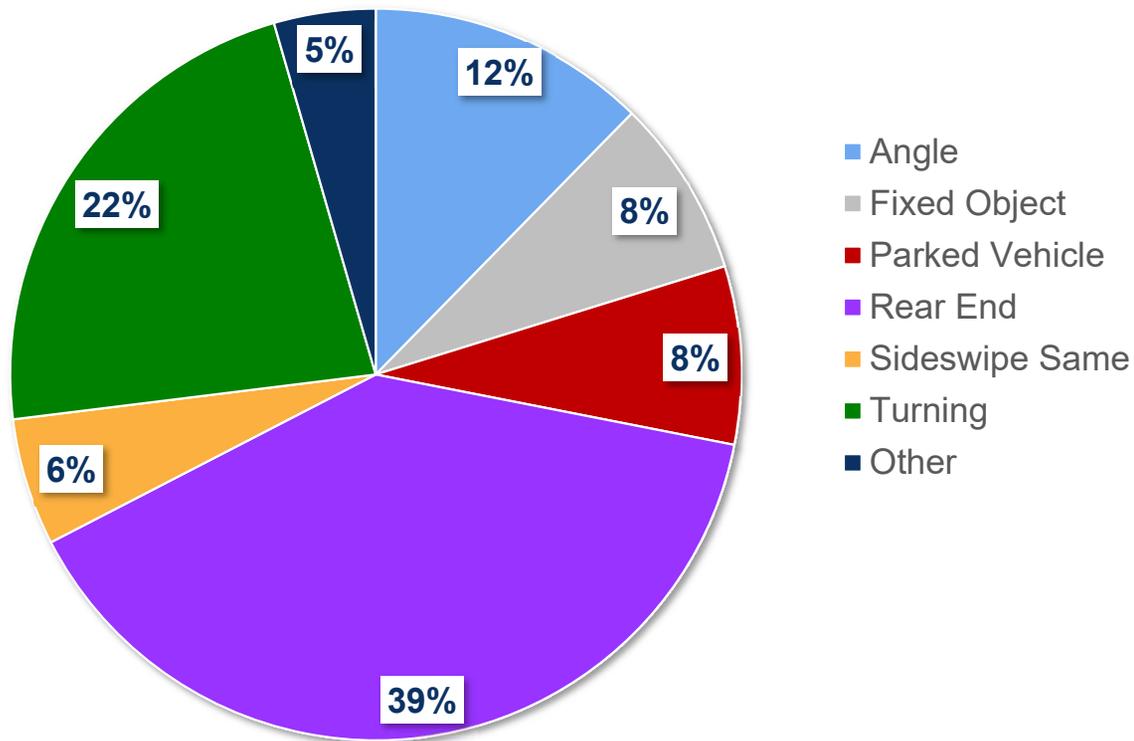


PROJECT OVERVIEW

Crash Data Summary



CRASH STATISTICS BY TYPE
(2014 to 2018)



**Total Number of Crashes
from 2014 to 2018 = 90**

Others Include:

- Other Non-collision
- Other Object
- Pedestrian
- Sideswipe Opposite Direction



BREAKOUT SESSION

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BREAKOUT SESSION

Recap





QUESTION AND ANSWER

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NEXT STEPS

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PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING



The Next Public Information Meeting is to be tentatively held in the Fall of 2021

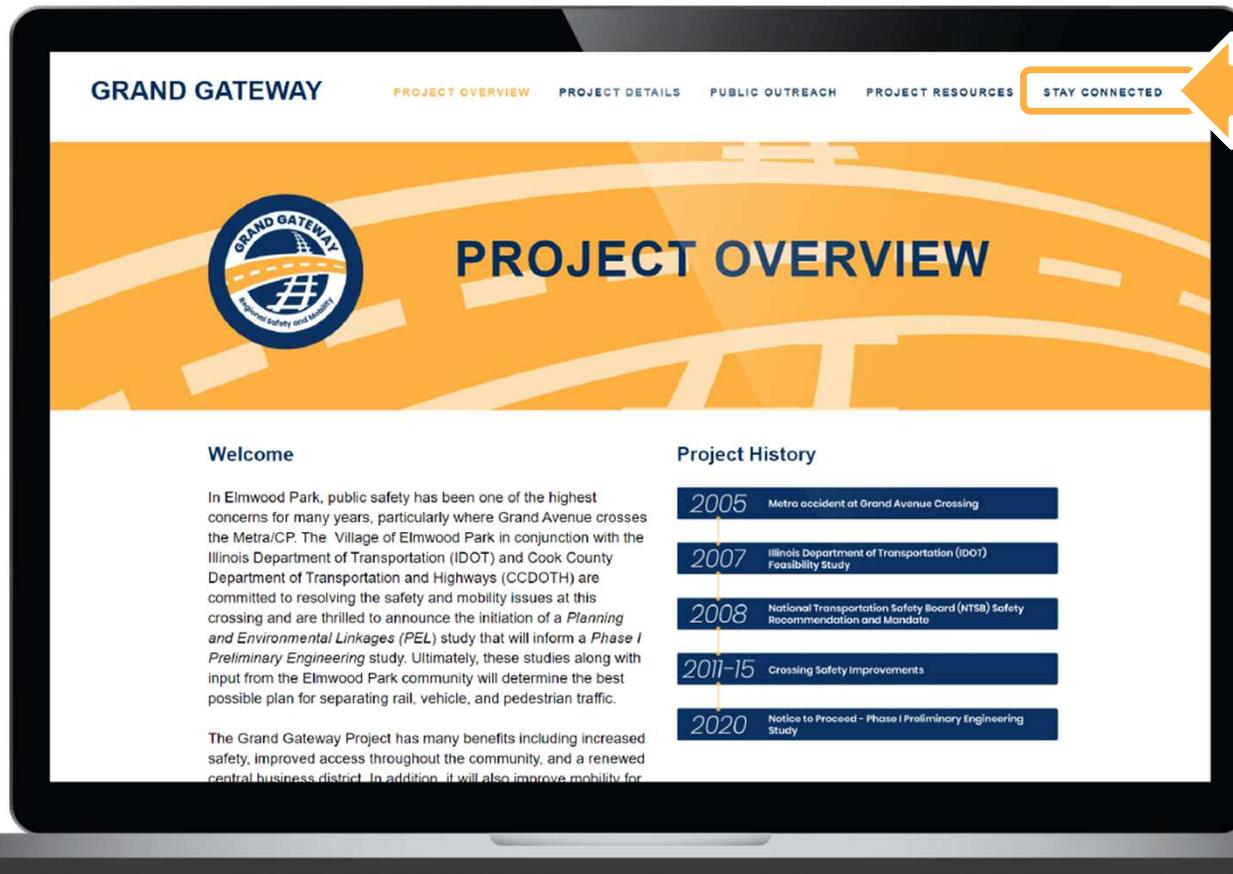
Request public comments on:

- Project updates
- Proposed alternatives



WEBSITE

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STAY CONNECTED



THANK YOU!

Your continued involvement and input is important to this project!

Email: info@grandgatewayep.com

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