

GRAND AVENUE GRADE SEPARATION STUDY Phase I Engineering

*Community Advisory Group (CAG) Meeting #1
July 23, 2020*



AGENDA

- 1. Introductions**
- 2. Community Advisory Group Goals and Guidelines**
- 3. Project Overview**
- 4. Project Timeline**
- 5. Project Purpose and Need**
- 6. Community Advisory Group Feedback**



INTRODUCTIONS

INTRODUCTIONS

Project Team



KNIGHT

Engineers & Architects

Clay Shipley, *Vice President*
Scott Brejcha, *Senior Project Manager*
Kevin Walsh, *Environmental Planner*

METRO
strategies

Abby Monroe, *Vice President*
Mandi Jennings, *Senior Project Manager*



Joseph Chiczewski, *President*



GSG CONSULTANTS, INC.
Engineers & Scientists

Dawn Edgell, *Project Manager*



ALTUSWORKS INC.

Chelsea Medek, *Architect*

INTRODUCTIONS

CAG Members



Village of 
Elmwood Park



Village of Elmwood Park
Elmwood Park Fire Prevention
Elmwood Park Police Department
Elmwood Park Chamber of Commerce



Department of
Transportation
and Highways

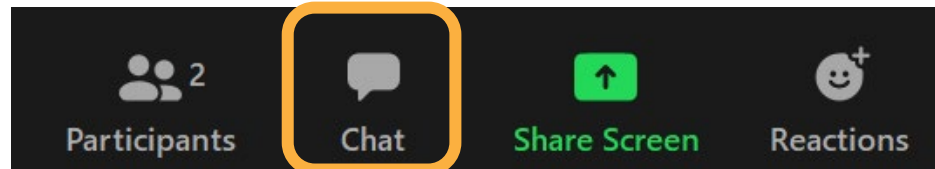


COMMENTS DURING TODAY'S MEETING

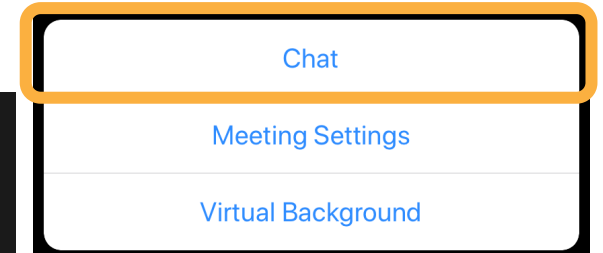


We value your feedback!

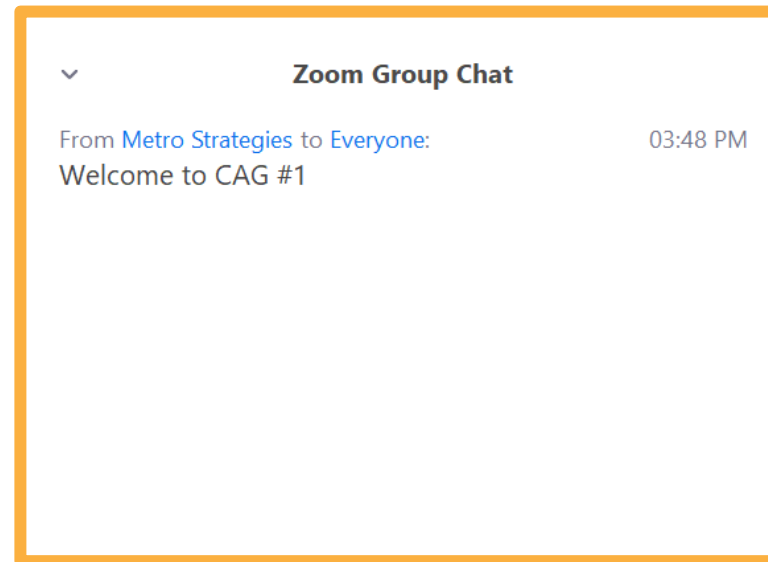
Click the chat icon at the bottom of your screen to provide your feedback



Desktop view



Mobile view



View of chat window



COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP GOALS AND GUIDELINES

COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP (CAG) *Goals*



Actively seek participation from CAG members



Respectfully review and discuss all concerns and project elements



Identify possible options and alternatives to meet project needs



Evaluate impacts associated with each alternative



Reach consensus on a preferred alternative

COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP (CAG) *Guidelines*



Input is valued and should be considered



Maintain an open mind



Work together to seek a consensus solution



Be respectful of others' opinions



The project has a schedule and therefore must proceed in a reasonable manner



All options and alternatives considered must support a priority to accommodate safety



All final project decisions will be made by the Village of Elmwood Park, IDOT and FHWA



PROJECT OVERVIEW

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

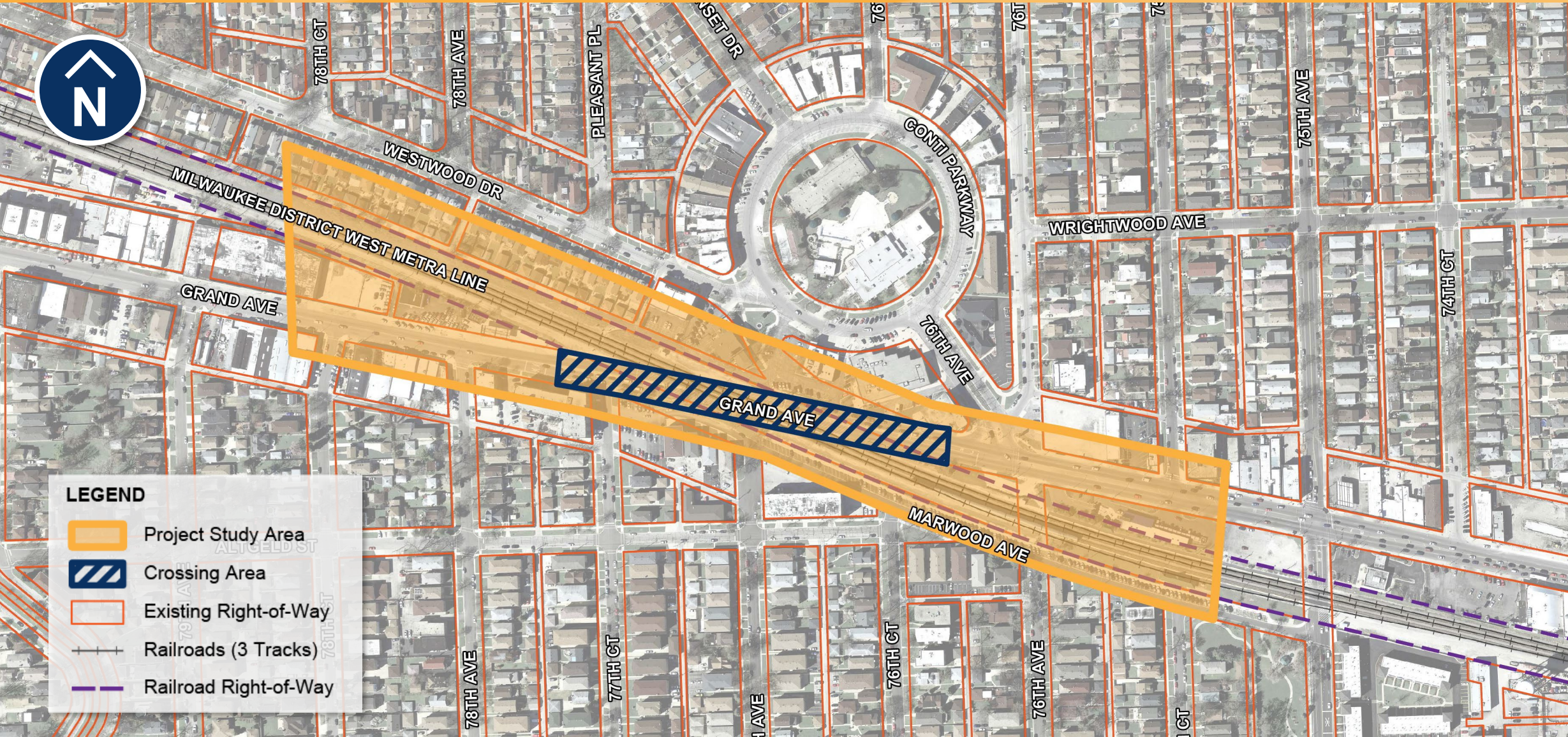
Crossing Safety Improvements

2020






Notice to Proceed - Phase I Preliminary Engineering
Study

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Study Area



LEGEND

-  Project Study Area
-  Crossing Area
-  Existing Right-of-Way
-  Railroads (3 Tracks)
-  Railroad Right-of-Way

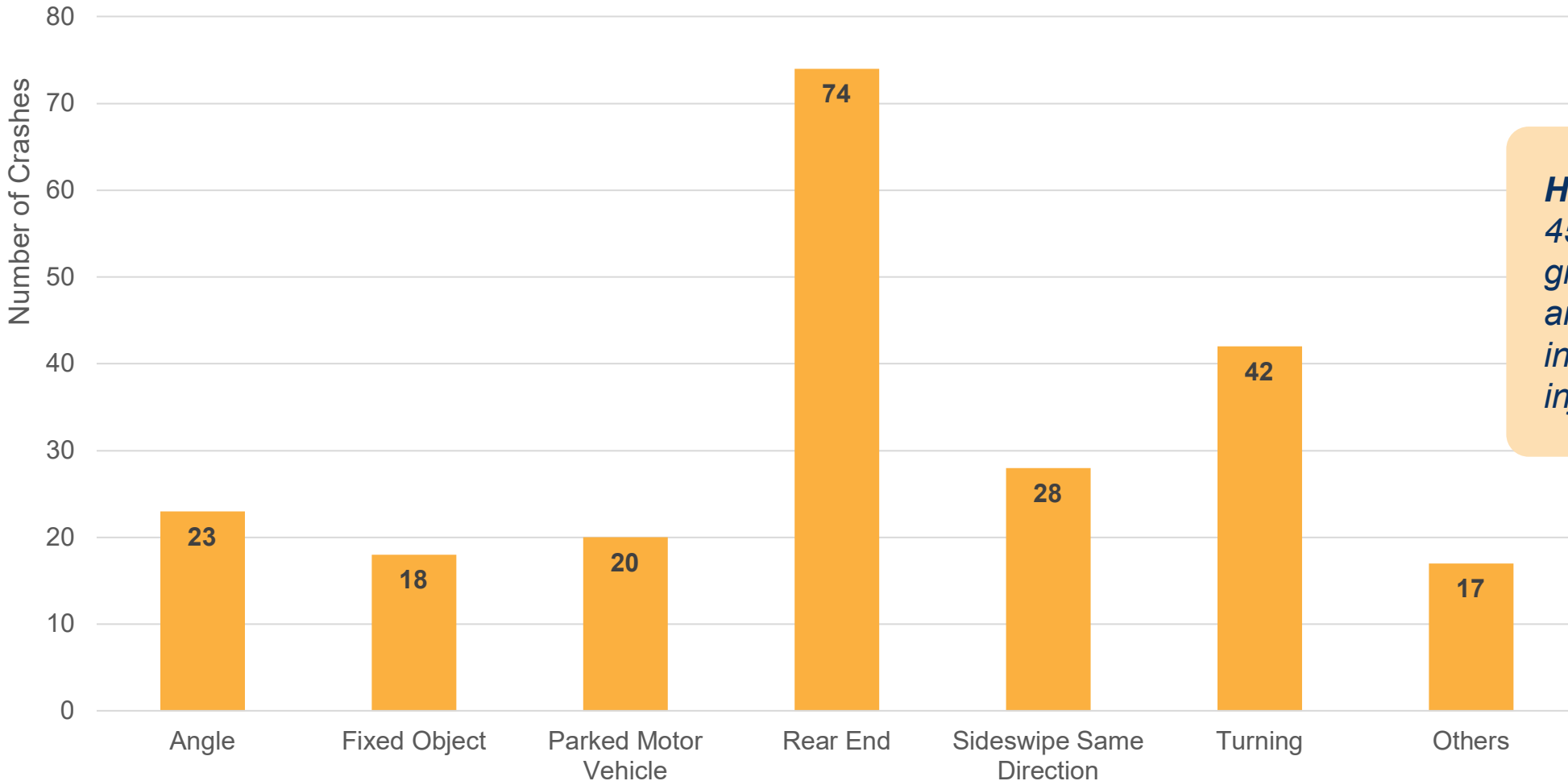
PROJECT OVERVIEW

Crash Data Summary



CRASH STATISTICS BY TYPE

Grand Avenue – West Brook Road to 75th Avenue (2014 to 2018)



Historical Accidents:
45 accidents occurred at this grade crossing between 1956 and November 2005, resulting in a total of 7 fatalities and 27 injuries.

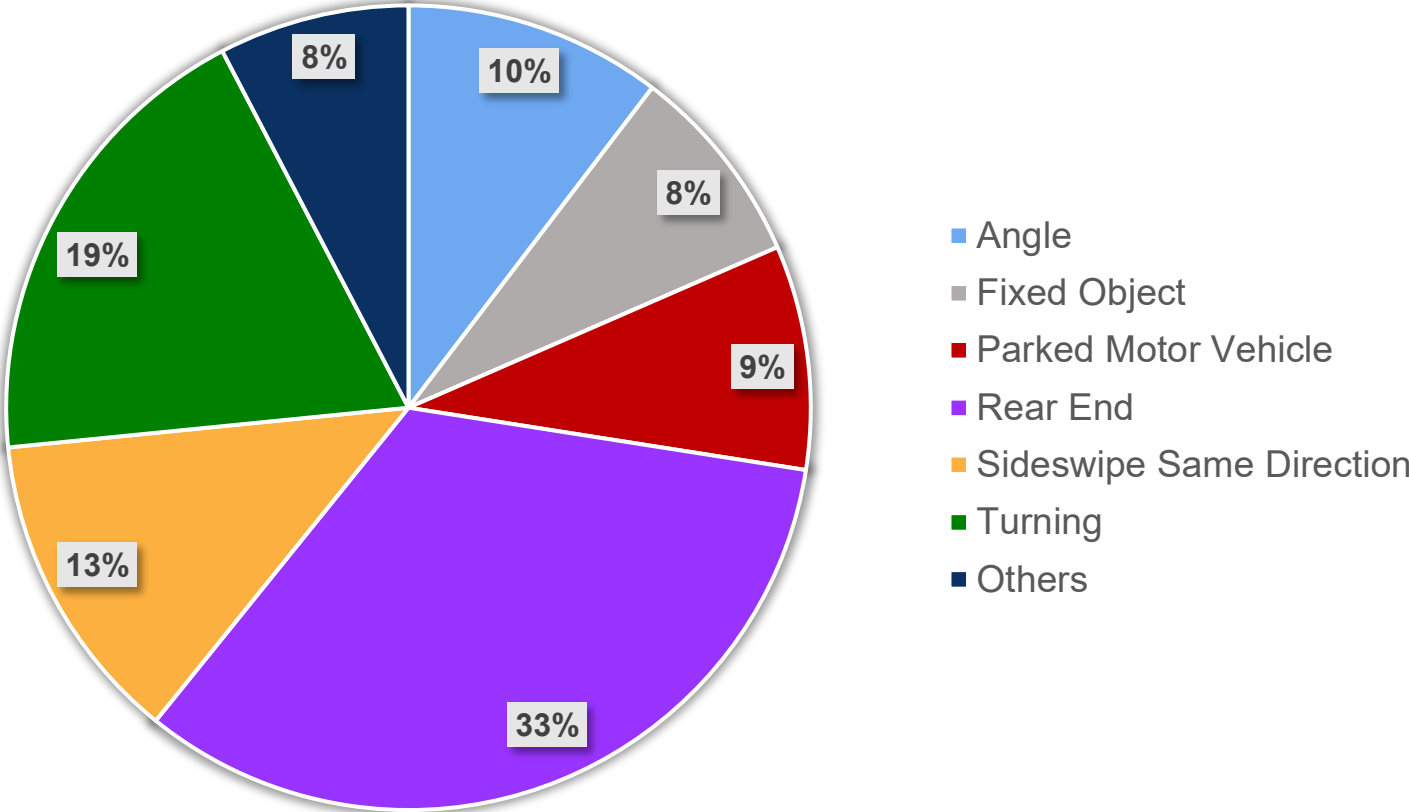
PROJECT OVERVIEW

Crash Data Summary



PERCENTAGE OF CRASHES BY TYPE

Grand Avenue – West Brook Road to 75th Avenue (2014 to 2018)



Total Number of Crashes from 2014 to 2018 = 222

- Others Include:*
- *Head on*
 - *Other Non-collision*
 - *Other Object*
 - *Overtaken*
 - *Pedalcyclist*
 - *Pedestrian*
 - *Sideswipe Opposite Direction*

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Proposed Alternatives



A variety of grade separation alternatives will be evaluated for further consideration including:

- | | |
|---|--|
| ① Grand Avenue over the railroad | ④ Railroad over Grand Avenue* |
| ② Grand Avenue under the railroad | ⑤ Railroad under Grand Avenue* |
| ③ Combination of lowering Grand Avenue and raising the railroad | ⑥ Combination of lowering railroad under and raising Grand Avenue* |

**Alternatives 4-6 are being evaluated but are not likely as they would require extensive revisions to the railroad profile; at a minimum, a total length of approximately one mile. This would create an extensive number of impacts to adjacent properties and areas and would not be cost effective.*

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Project Limits and Objective



PROJECT LIMITS

- Overall limits will be expanded as required for:
 - Traffic management and construction staging
 - Drainage and associated routing and connections
 - Horizontal and vertical railroad alignments; permanent and temporary

OBJECTIVE

- Develop a preferred alternative that accommodates and improves both rail and roadway traffic and operations, as well as safety and travel efficiency.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Potential Benefits



Increased Safety



**Quicker Response Time from the Fire and Police
Departments**



Improved Mobility for All Modes of Transportation



Reduced Congestion and Delays



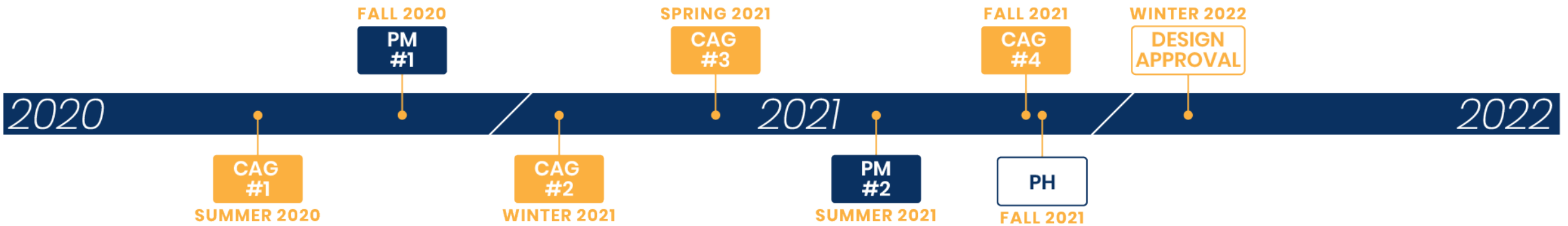
Reduced Vehicle-Train Conflict



PROJECT TIMELINE

PROJECT TIMELINE

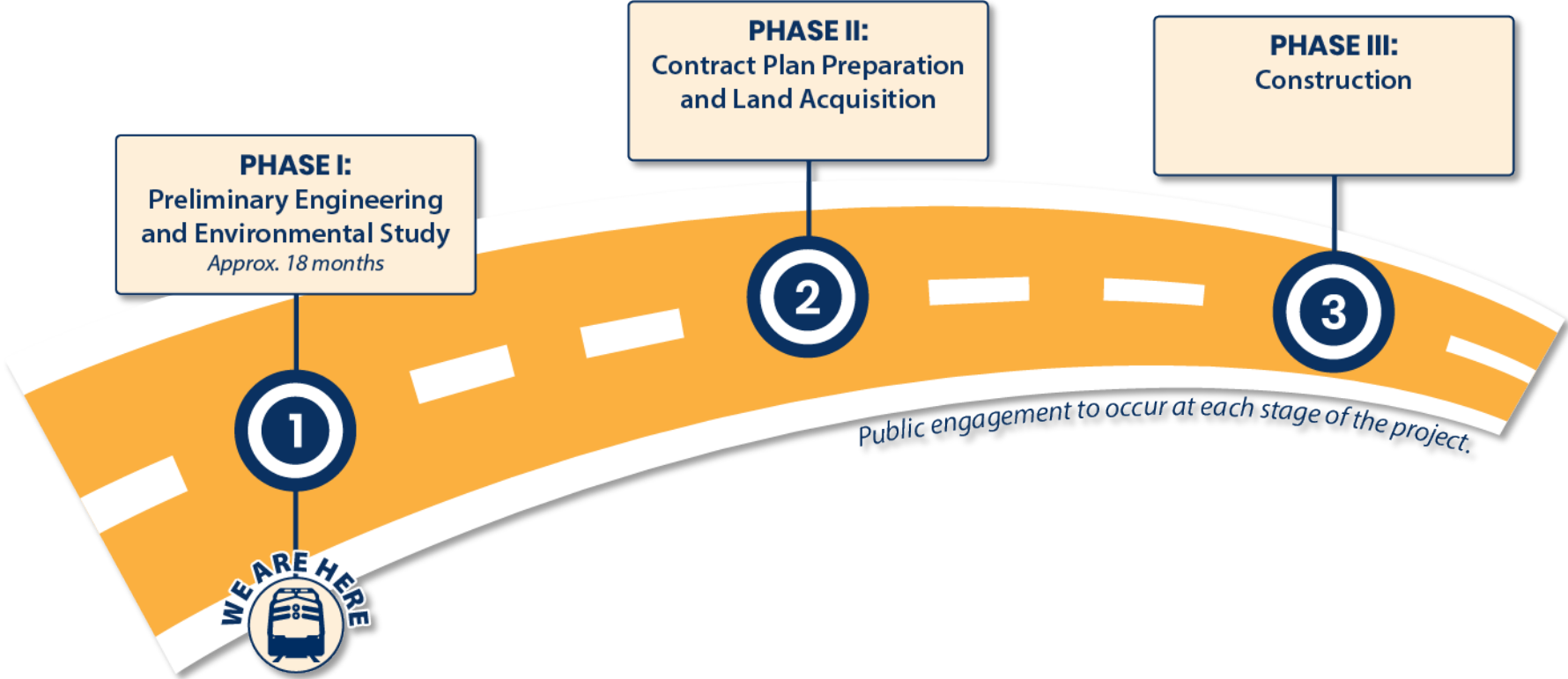
Public Engagement



CAG	Community Advisory Group Meeting
PM	Public Meeting
PH	Public Hearing
DESIGN APPROVAL	Targeted Design Approval

PROJECT TIMELINE

Project Development





PROJECT PURPOSE AND NEED

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PURPOSE

- Evaluate grade separation alternatives to eliminate at-grade crossing and improve safety
- The study will examine:
 - Potential community impacts and benefits
 - Local transportation system impacts
 - Environmental concerns
 - Constructability issues
 - Document public/stakeholder feedback
 - Estimate costs

NEED

- Current and future demands of all modes of traffic dictates the need for a review of this railroad crossing to address existing deficiencies:
 - Angle between roadway and railroad results in a long and unsafe crossing area
 - Peak traffic volumes on Grand Avenue and surrounding roadways creates high level of congestion
 - These unsafe conditions can result in vehicles becoming trapped on railroad crossing as trains approach



COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP FEEDBACK

COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP FEEDBACK



We value your feedback!

- Switch to **GALLERY VIEW** to see all participants
- Use the **RAISE MY HAND** option to let us know when you'd like to speak – we will call on you
- Send chats to **EVERYONE** if you'd like your comment recorded

COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP FEEDBACK



**Is there anything to add or refine to
the Purpose and Need?**

PROJECT PURPOSE AND NEED



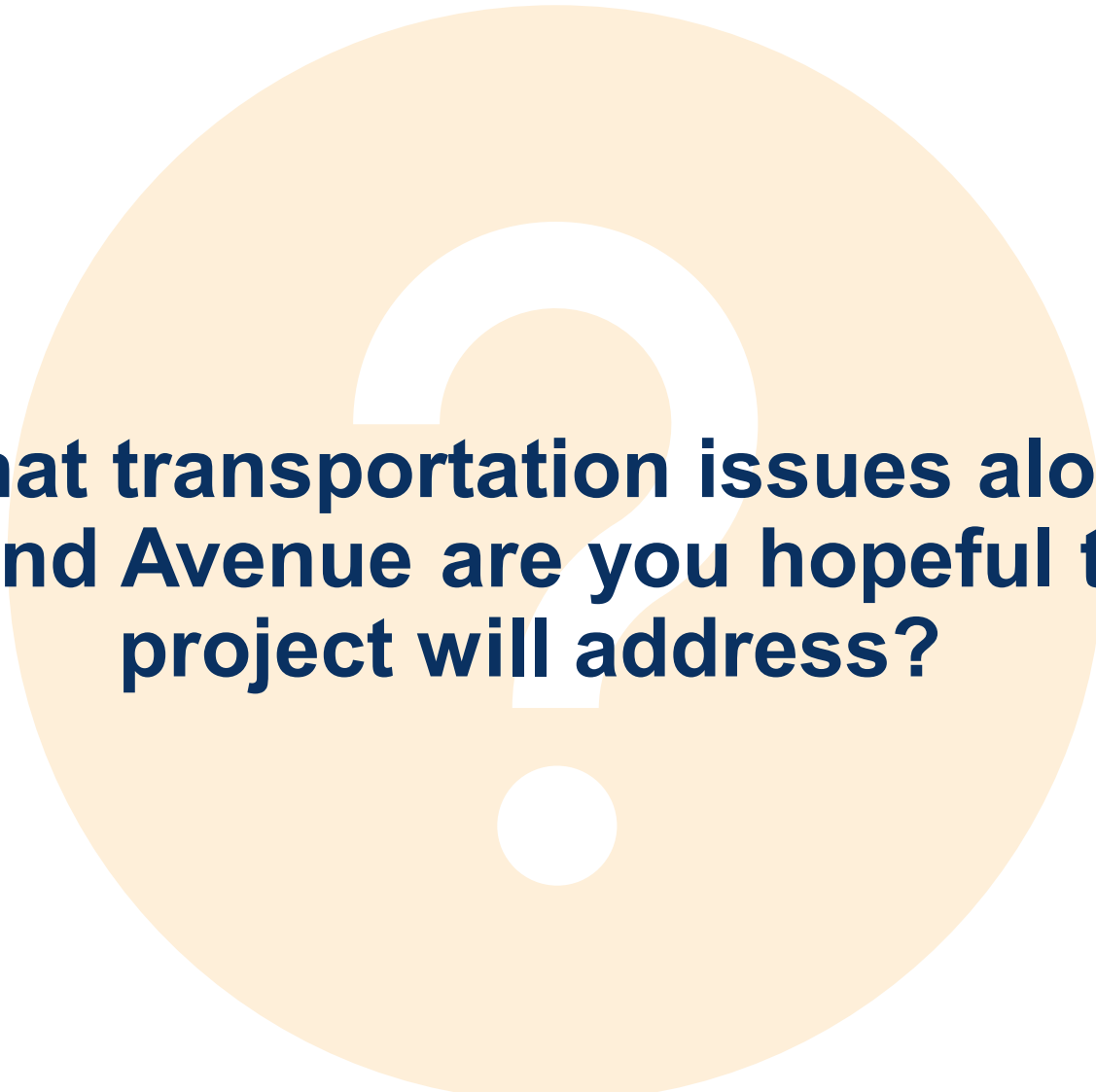
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**COMMUNITY
ADVISORY
GROUP
FEEDBACK**



**What transportation issues along
Grand Avenue are you hopeful this
project will address?**

COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP FEEDBACK

What design opportunities or constraints should the project team consider as alternatives are developed?

COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP FEEDBACK



**What is important to know about
working with the community in this
project area?**



QUESTION AND ANSWER



NEXT STEPS

*Email questions to:
info@grandgatewayep.com*



Your continued involvement and input will be important to the development of this study.

We look forward to working with you to improve the Grand Gateway!

THANK YOU!