



Department of Transportation and Highways

COOK COUNTY
FREIGHT PLAN

Internal Work Group Kick-off Meeting

Wednesday, October 26, 2016

3:00 pm – 4:30 pm

AGENDA

- **Welcome and Introductions**
- **Background & Link to Connecting Cook County**
- **Freight Plan Project Overview**
- **Stakeholder Involvement**
- **Existing Conditions**
- **Discussion and Next Steps**





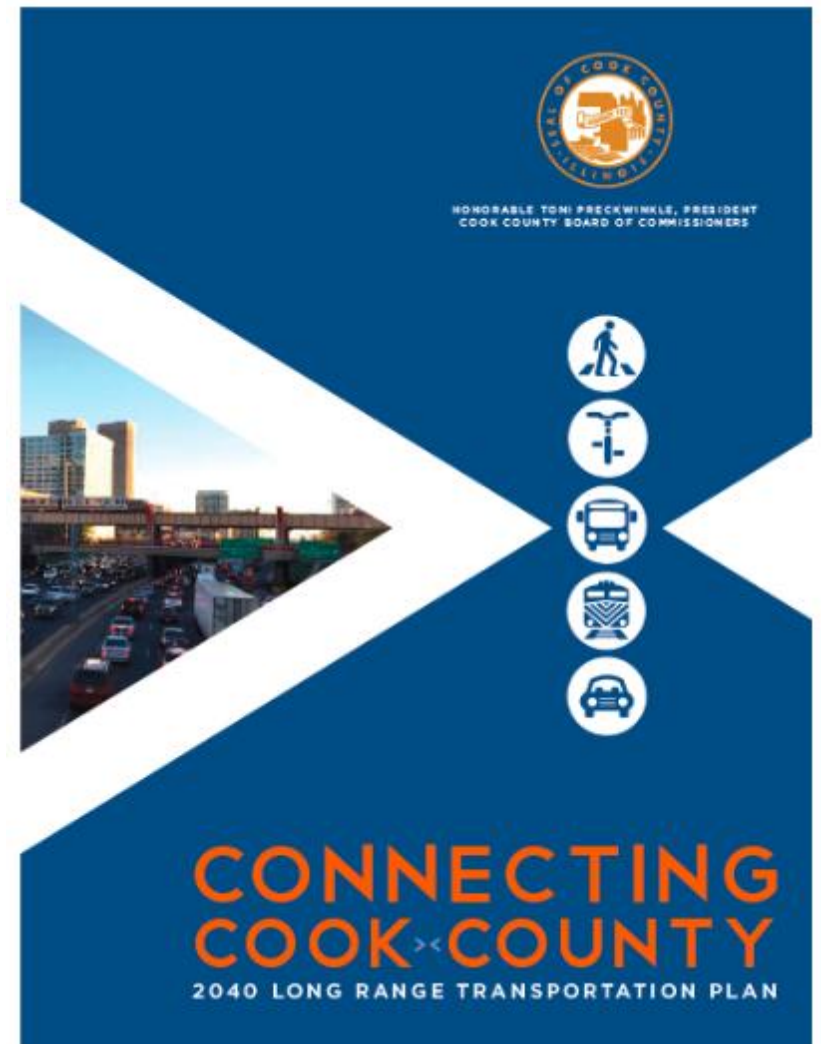
CONNECTING COOK COUNTY

WWW.CONNECTINGCOOKCOUNTY.ORG

CONNECTING COOK COUNTY

- Launched Plan in 2013
- Investigated Existing Conditions
- Compiled Needs and Set Goals
- Involved the Public
- Consulted with Experts & Leaders
- Created the Final Plan

Approved by Cook County Board on August 2016



THE PRIORITIES

- Prioritize Transit and Other Transportation Alternatives
- **Support the Region's Role as North America's Freight Capitol**
- Promote Equal Access to Opportunities
- Maintain and Modernize What Already Exists
- Increase Investments in Transportation



NEED FOR FREIGHT INVESTMENT



Touhy Avenue Multi-Modal Safety and Capacity Improvement Project



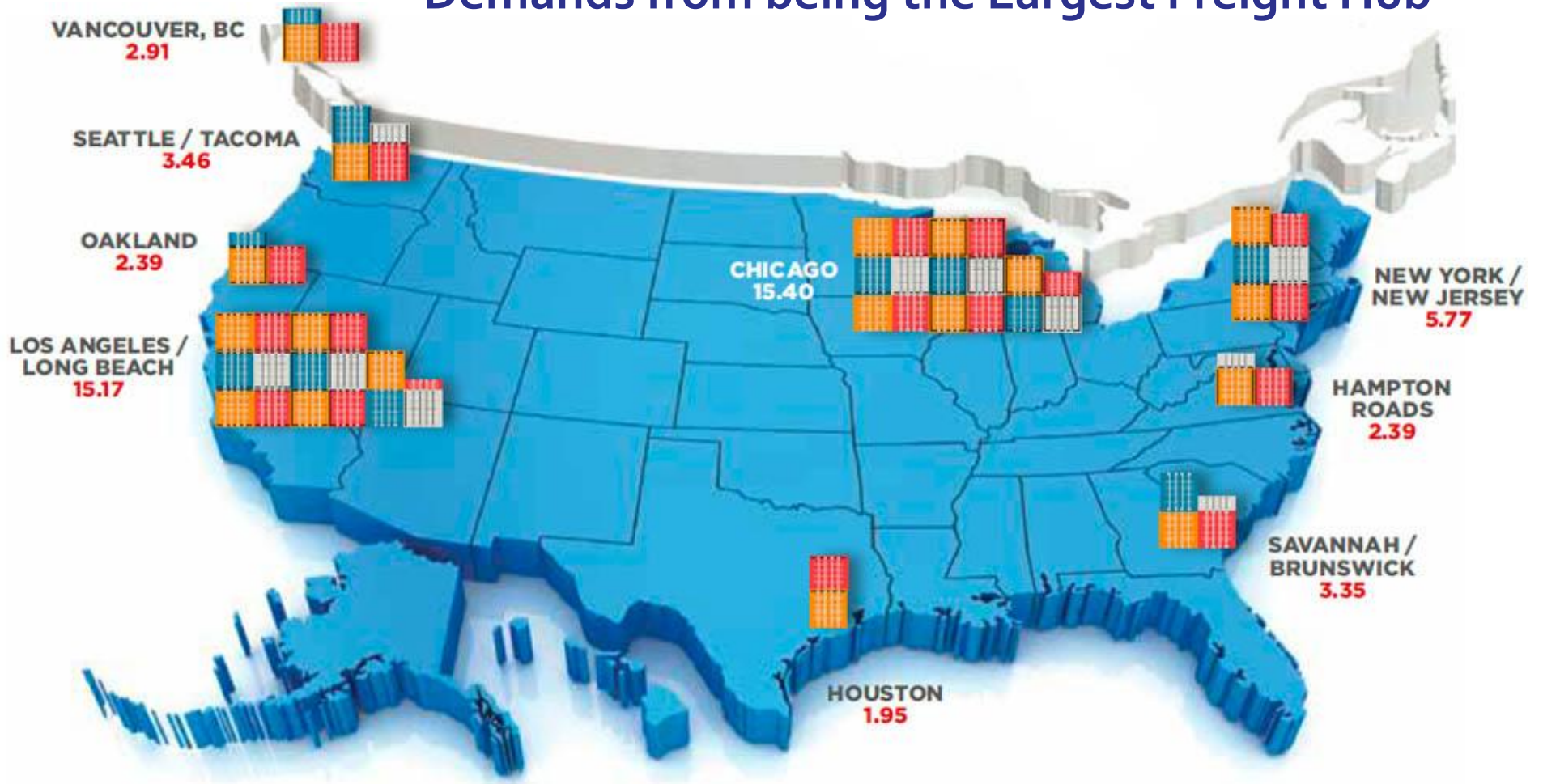


FREIGHT PLAN OVERVIEW

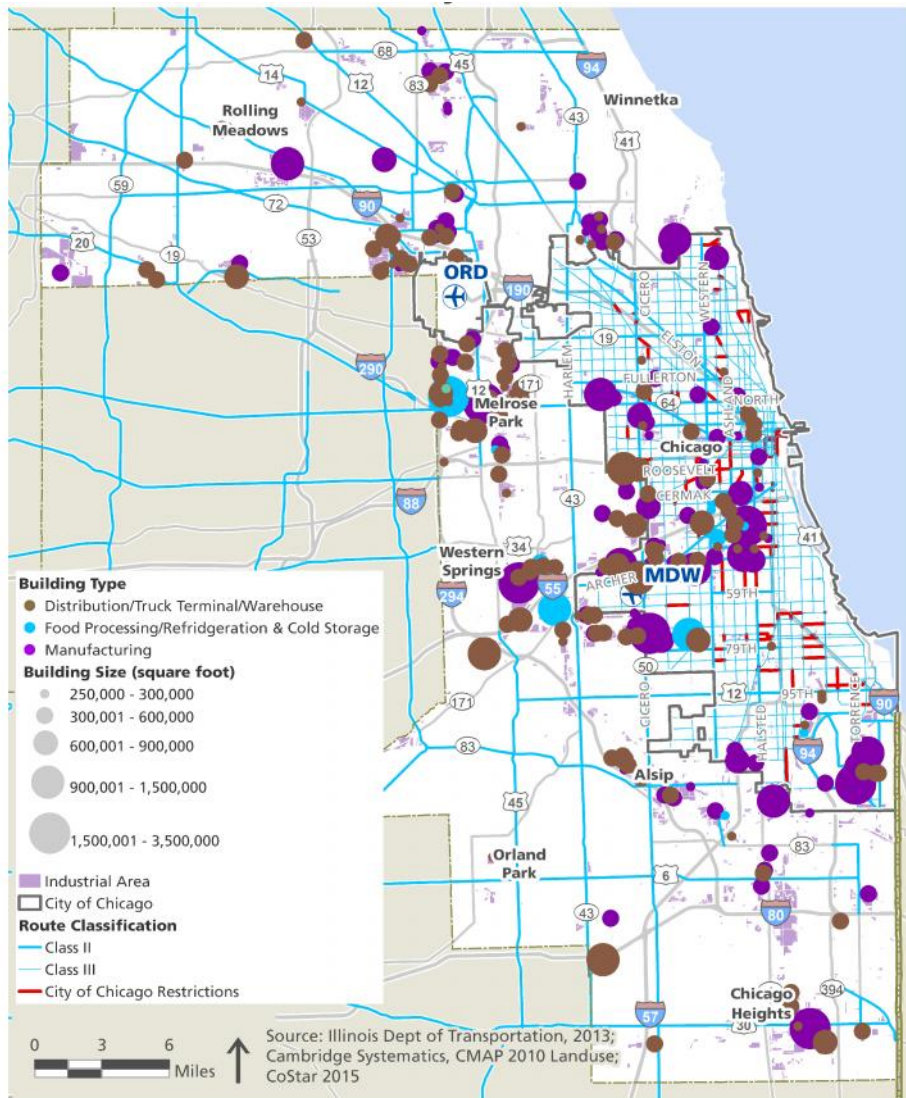
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CONNECTING GLOBAL MARKETS...

Demands from being the Largest Freight Hub



... TO LOCAL BUSINESSES



- The freight system connects Cook County's industries to business and customers worldwide
- First/last mile connections are critical



PROJECT UNDERSTANDING

- **Cook County's freight system is a lynchpin of the economy, moving goods between producers and consumers**
 - National and regional connections through highways, waterways, railways, and airports.
 - Local and last-mile connections through State, County and local roadway systems.
 - Focus on surface transportation; waterways and airports considered to extent they generate road, railway traffic

- **Cook County should position itself to identify needs and advocate for freight-related opportunities and projects**
 - At the County level
 - Incorporated within CMAP and IDOT's Freight Planning



PROJECT TEAM

■ Cambridge Systematics

- Erik Cempel, Elaine McKenzie
- National Transportation Planning Firm – our Freight and Logistics Practice has created plans for States, MPOs, Counties, and cities across the country.
- *Prime Contractor leading all tasks, responsible for project oversight and delivery*



■ Metro Strategies

- Laura Wilkison, Colin Fleming
- *Stakeholder outreach, regional policy, connections to the LRTP*



PROJECT TEAM

- **AECOM**

- Dan Meyers
- *Infrastructure and investment, alignment with LRTP*



- **Center for Neighborhood Technology (CNT)**

- David Chandler
- *Land Use, Industrial Sites, Cargo Oriented Development*

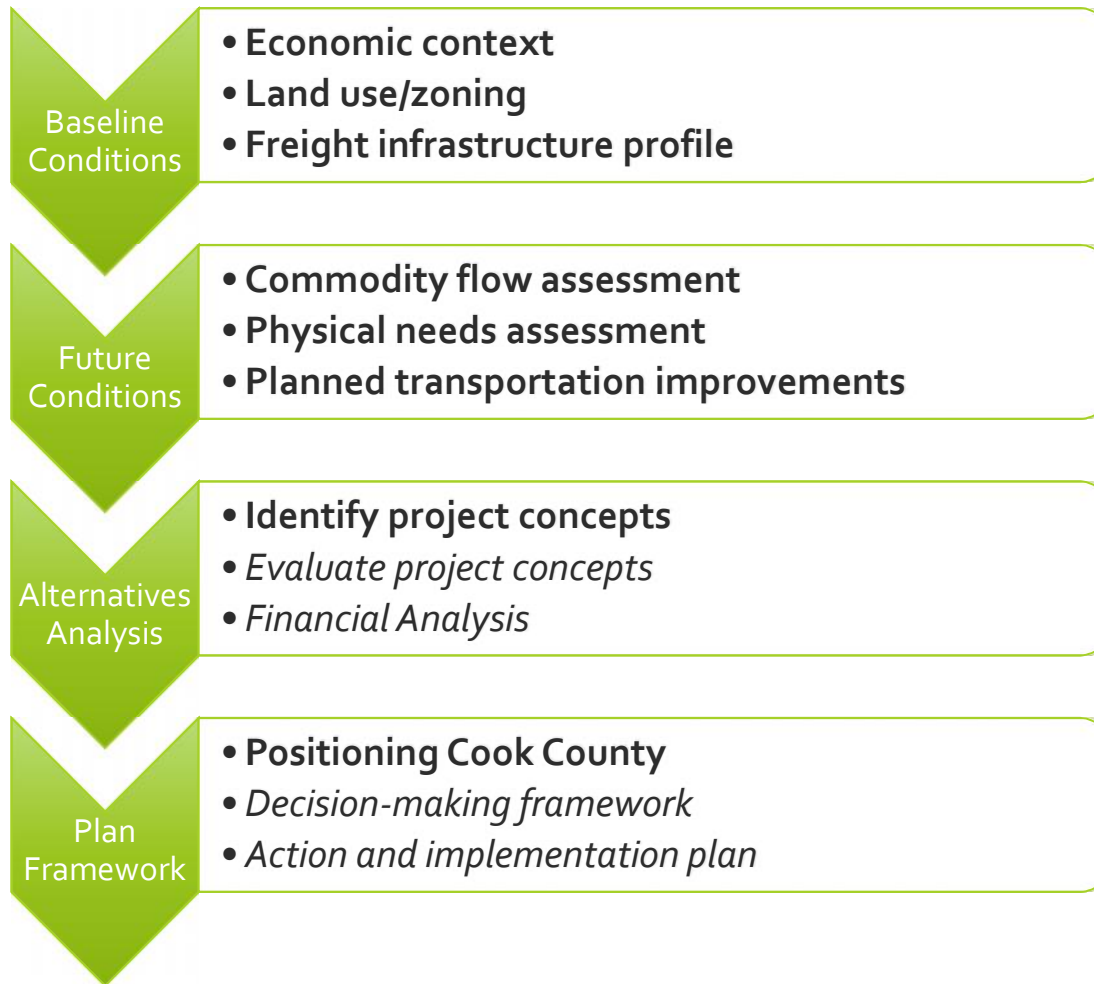


- **Economic Development Research Group**

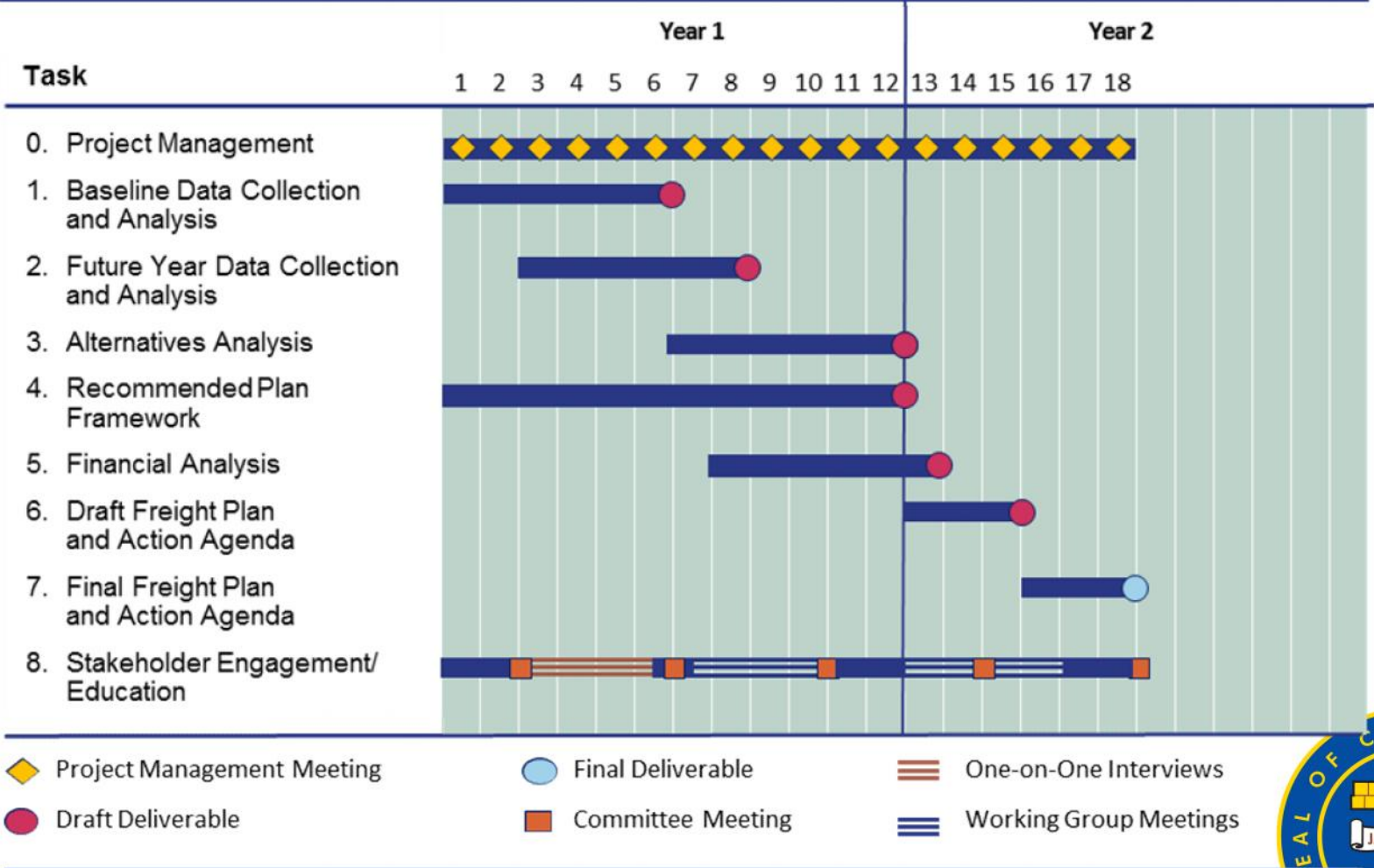
- Paul Bingham
- *Commodity Flows, Economic Impacts*



PROJECT SCOPE



PROJECT TIMELINE





STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT

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STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT

- **Advisory Committee**
 - Select LRTP Advisory Committee members
 - Additional freight stakeholders

- **Work Groups**
 - Manufacturing
 - Freight operators

- **One-on-One Interviews**
 - Industrial development sector
 - Key freight corridor communities



INTERNAL WORK GROUP

- **Internal Cook County departments and CMAP**
- **Meet at key milestones**
- **Provide insight and feedback**
- **Agency coordination**





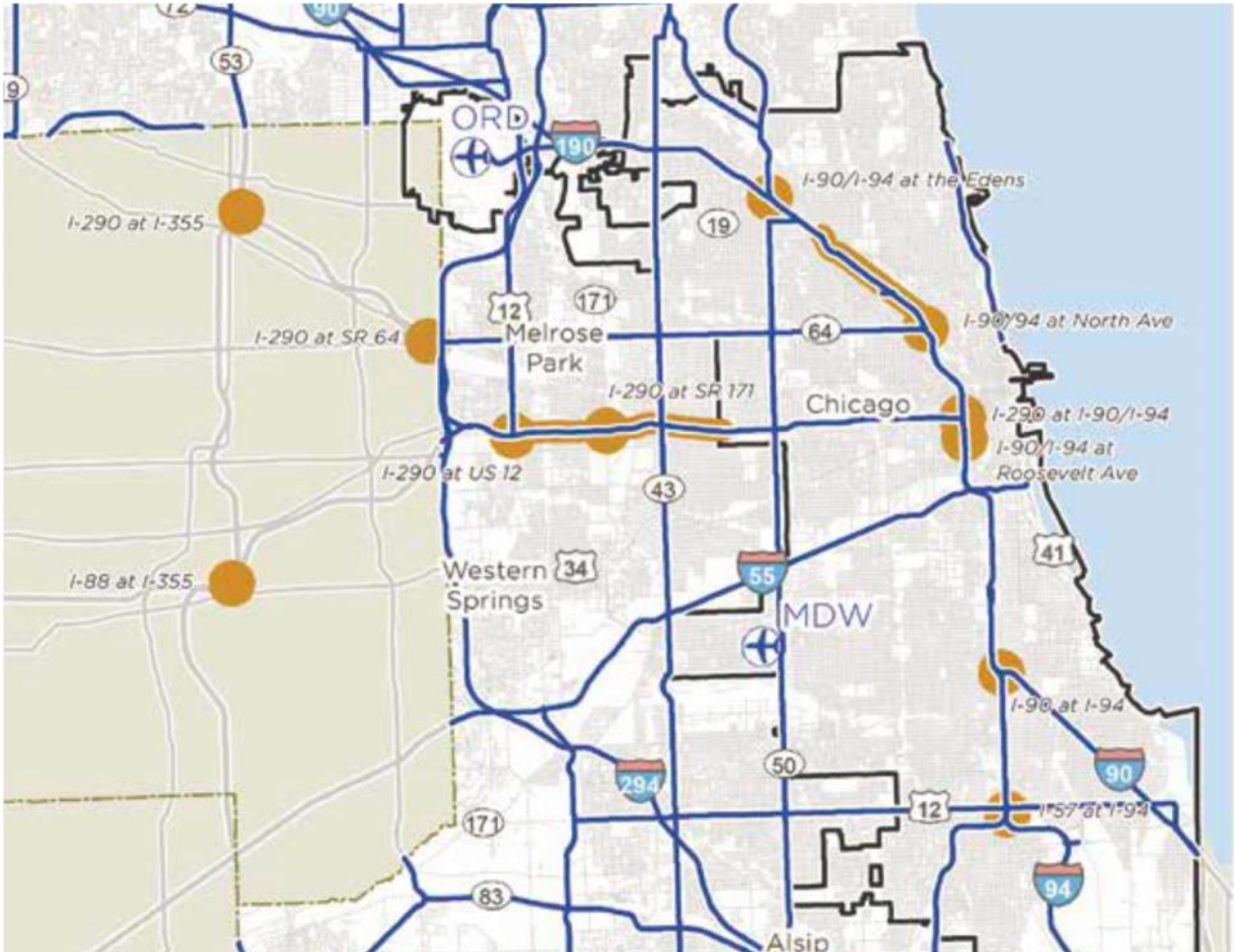
EXISTING CONDITIONS

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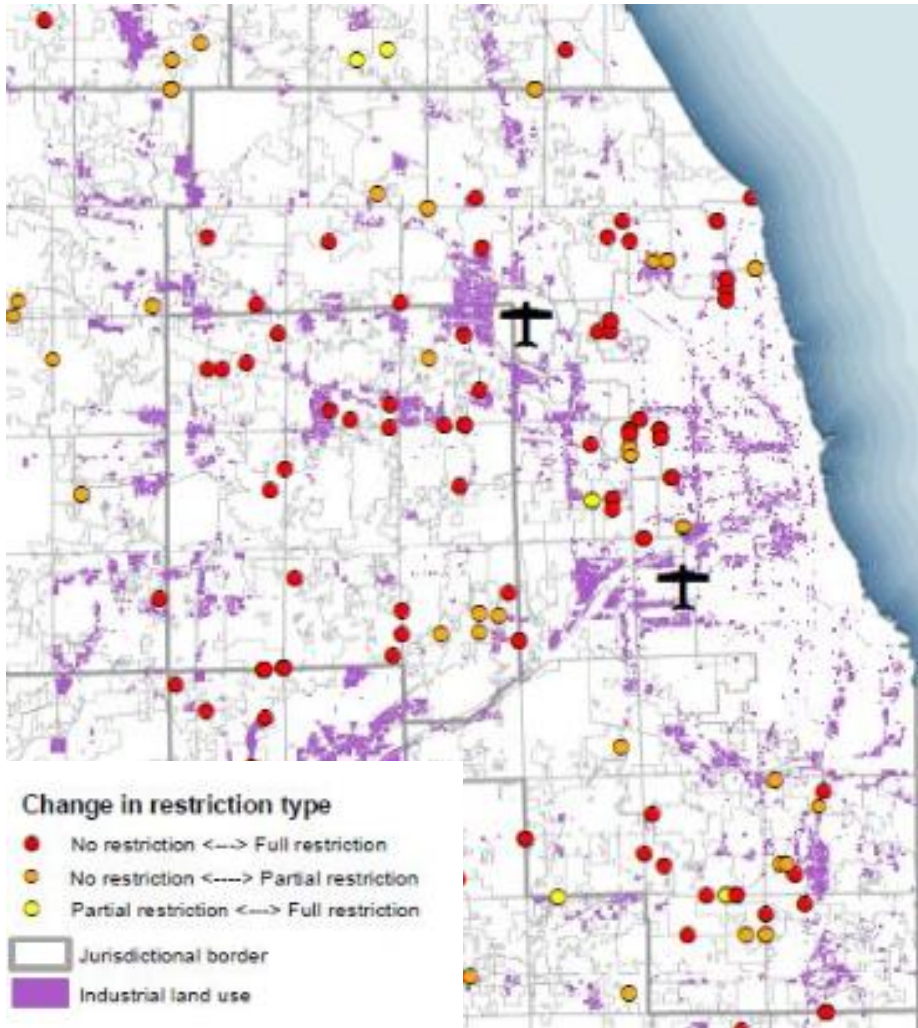
TRUCK TRAFFIC

Extensive Highway and Truck Route Network

70% of Freight Moves by Truck in the Chicago Region, Creating 11 of the Top 20 Bottlenecks in the Midwest



TRUCK RESTRICTIONS



Truck Routes

- Local governments can control preferred truck routes
- Based on vehicle type, weight, and dimensions
- Results in inconsistencies at jurisdictional borders
- Driver's responsibility to verify; often take alternate routes and diversions



FREIGHT / PASSENGER RAIL



Chicago Region

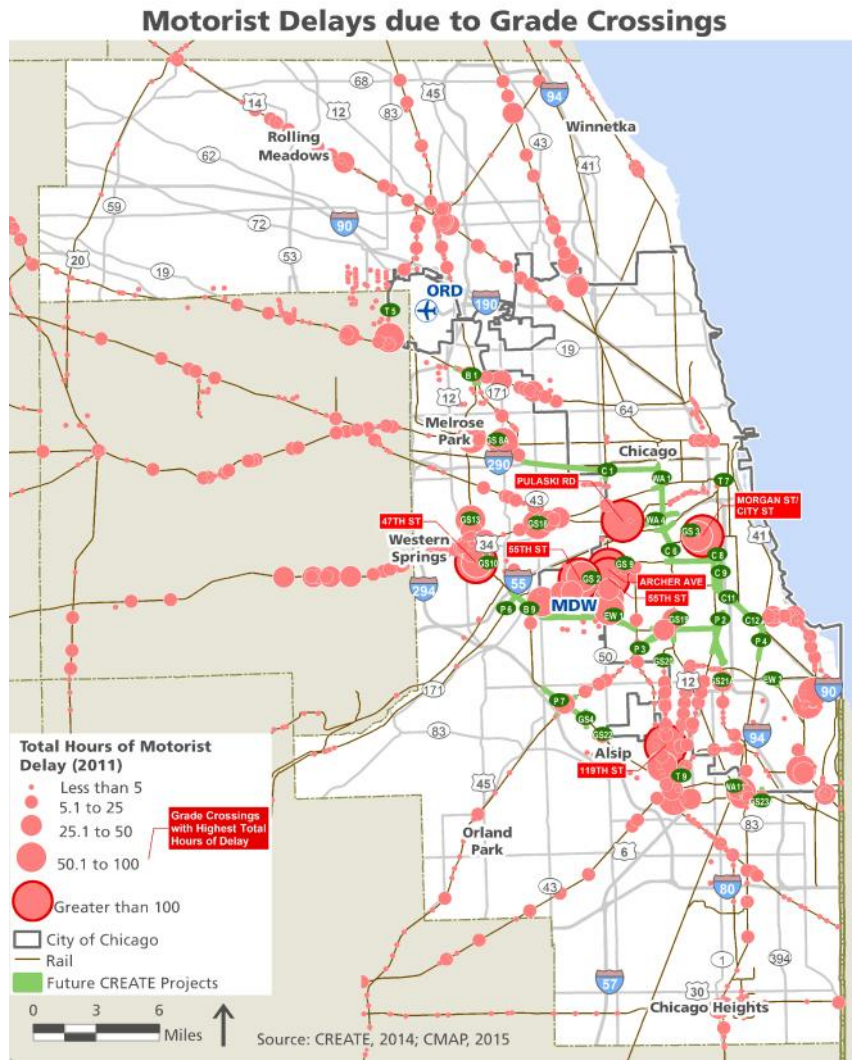
- 500 freight trains per day
- 760 passenger trains per day
- 37,500 total railcars
- 3,865 track-miles of rail
- 50+ freight rail yards

- Nearly 1,400 of the region's track-miles are shared by both passenger and freight trains.

- 7 of 11 Metra lines share track with freight rail



AT-GRADE RAIL DELAY



- **Total Rail Crossings**
 - Region = 1,362
 - Cook = 724
(53% of region)
- **Total Rail Delay**
 - Region = 7,790
 - Cook = 6,083
(78% of region)

***Motorist delay disproportionately affects South and West Cook County**





DISCUSSION AND NEXT STEPS

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Which programs, initiatives, or on-going discussions should be included?
- Where are the critical freight system needs/issues that should be emphasized as part of this study?
- What additional data resources should be considered?



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What do you see as the County's short – and long-term role in regional leadership on freight issues?
- Who are key freight-interest stakeholders that should provide input to this study?
- From your perspective, what outcome from the Freight Plan would constitute a “win”?





Department of Transportation and Highways

COOK COUNTY
FREIGHT PLAN

THANK YOU