



# Public Comments

During the final Virtual Public Outreach comment period, the public had an opportunity to provide comments via mail and email. Verbal and chat box comments were also made during the Virtual Public Forum Comments. Questions received were related to project timeline and next steps, land acquisition and property impacts, construction impacts and detours, and flooding.

@ WEBSITE COMMENT FORM AND EMAIL (received between July 13–October 7)

**Martin P. Lock**  
7/13/2021

We 7 homeowners on Old harlem road that will be directly affected by the project want to know when phase 1 is completed and when phase 2, land acquisition will begin. We were told that the final phase 1 drawings were going to be put on this site and that would conclude phase 1 and phase 2 would begin. The timeline we have been given is that by 2023 spring we should all be ready to move assuming the offer letter was given and accepted. PLEASE confirm this for us. We have been in limbo for 2 years now and this is getting very disturbing to not get a definitive answer.

Thanks for your consideration

**Katherine Owsianiak**  
7/14/2021

I am in favor of this project. Do you know how soon it could be started and how long construction will take?

**Stephen A. Viz**  
7/15/2021

How will the Schold Machine property located at 7201 W. 64th Place and 7200 W. 65th Street, Bedford Park, IL be affected by this project?

Is there any land acquisition or property interests anticipated to be taken from this property? If so, will it be a full or partial taking? If partial taking, please provide a plat of highways or other drawing depicting the proposed takings.

When is land acquisition for this project scheduled to take place?

When is the construction scheduled to take place?

How long will construction for the project take to be completed?

Thanks  
Steve

**Paul Pope**  
7/26/2021

Just get it done ASAP.

**Mark Lisowski****8/2/2021**

An RR overpass above 65th St. but not 63rd, creates a dangerous situation with 63rd St. traffic snaking through narrow side streets, past several schools, just to get around train(s) blocking 63rd St. Is the project aware of this? What is the plan to deal with it?

---

**Fortunate One****8/4/2021**

Hi

I participated in the virtual meeting. I am unable to find the link to the video.

I would greatly appreciate a link. Thank you.

---

**Sandi Leamon****8/7/2021**

A significant number of cars and semi's make the turn from northbound Old Harlem Ave to westbound 65th street. This new plan only allows for eastbound turns. Will the new Sayre intersection that connects 68th and 65th (that is needed so Old Harlem can close during construction) remain as a permanent improvement so that the westbound traffic can exit 68th from that factory area? If not, this will have negative impacts on those vehicles that make that westbound turn.

---

**Edward Usavage****8/8/2021**

When a train or trains go thru the intersection of 63rd and Harlem it causes extreme back up of traffic and considerable congestion.

This happens many times thru the day and has been going on for many years.

This project if it happens will be the most welcome improvement to the area in years.

---

**Mike Sedlacek****8/12/2021**

I see the exhibits on the project website, but I don't see an environmental assessment. Is this comment period (ending August 25) for an environmental assessment or for alternatives?

---

**Thomas****8/12/2021**

Where can I watch the digital video of the proposed project.

---

**William C. Toullos, Ed.D Superintendent, Argo Community High School****8/17/2021**

Quick question, when will the land acquisition begin for the automotive stores on the east side of the high school near Harlem. Thank you. Bill

---

**Marie T Zilka,****8/23/2021**

More information about how 63rd Street east of tracks will be affected. Where will the trucks be routed to in order to get to 65th Street?

**Juan Ortiz****8/24/2021**

Hi my name is Juan Ortiz and I am sending this email in reference to my property 19-19 -112 -005-0000. I am affected by the relocation is going to happen for the property at 6447 S. Old Harlem Ave. in Chicago under the Illinois 43 project and I have so many questions and I'm looking at all this information and trying to figure out how I can do anything because I am on disability after a catastrophic injury at work. I just learned that I will never be returning to my old job because of the injury and I'm trying to figure out what my next steps are in terms of what's going on with the house. Up to this point I really have not been very vocal about getting information because it didn't look like it was going to happen completely but now that it looks like it's ago I need to figure all this out and I am going to need extra help figuring it out because I have no idea what's going on. My phone number 312-451-3316. Thank you for any assistance that you may provide or contact that you can put me in contact with to get more information. Thank you Juan Ortiz

---

**Frank Procenti****8/24/2021**

Have lived at 64th and Normandy then moved to Summit total of 50years in this area politicians. talked about this longer than that about this problem people have died because of those crossings more BS from government Wood like to see it happen in my life time.

---

**Raymond Williams****8/25/2021**

[31 pages of past and recent correspondence sent as an email attachment to project team. Review attachment.]

---

**Kristie Mackey****8/28/2021**

This area really needs an over pass. The trains around here are ridiculous. I've lived by 63rd St & Sayre for almost 25 years and lived in the neighborhood for all my life and these trains are getting worse! They sit and block traffic and there is nothing that can be done. It would be ok if it were a 5- 10 minute train but they aren't! There have been times when I could be sitting there for 45 minutes! If that's not enough, the train could get done and another one comes along on the other track and you're sitting for another 25 minutes! Do you know how many times I've been late to work or any event that was on the other side of the track?!? Too many to count! Something needs to be done now!

---

**Diane Vargas****9/27/2021**

When will project officially begin, meaning restructuring?

---

**Nancy****10/6/2021**

I have lived in the neighborhood for over 50 years and every day is a problem with catching a train leaving my house and coming back home. It's ridiculous if has taken me 30 minutes to get home when I am literally 5 minutes from my house I hope this will happen because it's been promised for a long time.

---

**Tim Saldana****10/7/2021**

Just a suggestion, Would it be possible to construct 2 left turn lanes on southbound Harlem Ave onto eastbound 65th st?

---



**Dennis McGovern**

CHAT

I am the Engineer of the Dore school when is this project going to start?

How would this project affect the Dore School?

When is there going to be another meeting?

Dennis McGovern Engineer of Dore school Chicago Public Schools

---

**Tim Hadac**

CHAT

How many people are participating in this webinar?

This webinar is being recorded. Will it be posted for the benefit those unable to attend today?

If yes, when will it be posted and where?

This webinar's format is about as undemocratic, bureaucratic, top-down as I can imagine.

Please include this comment in the record.

---

**Mark Lis**

CHAT

An RR overpass above 65th St. but not 63rd, creates the dangerous situation of 63rd St. traffic snaking through narrow side streets, past several schools, just to get around train(s) blocking at 63rd St. Is the project aware of this? What is the plan to deal with it?

Specifically, what addresses are scheduled for "relocation"?

An RR overpass above 65th St. but not 63rd (as is proposed), would create the dangerous situation of 63rd St. traffic snaking through narrow side streets, past several schools, just to get around trains blocking 63rd St. Is the project aware of this?

What is the plan to deal with it?

---

**Ms. L Gates**

CHAT

How is the independent appraisal period executed?

Can you read and address the chat comments?

This process is not helpful. There many older people with limited tech skills. Non answers to simple and already published questions is unhelpful.

---

**Abby Brooks**

CHAT

What are the plans for Sayer Avenue?

---

**Ron Deverman**

CHAT

What level of environmental review was conducted for the IL 43 study? It was unclear in the presentation. Are you planning to answer the residents' questions tonight at this public forum?

**Martin Lock**

CHAT

My microphone is not working, sorry

A follow up question in our last meeting the "preferred" scenario was the overpass on 65th street is that still good with the 7 houses being land aquisitioned?

so you will be answering all of our questions from this chat information on the site?

---

**Kevin Coulas**

CHAT

How is the 7171 W 65th how do you propose they use their dock doors?

When will the project be completed? Is the video on the website?

Can you provide a direct link to the video? I was able to find the other documents just not the video to share.

When will the next outreach be? In person or Zoom? What will be the nearest bus stop by Weldbend?

---

**Michael Kowalczyk**

CHAT

Wendy - Could you read off the comments you received?

---

**Jeff Foley**

CHAT

How long will 65 st be closed during construction. What about the deep tunnel under 63 st for flooding

---

**Pat Kenney**

CHAT

Current trains cause the traffic on Harlem backs up on northbound bridge, cars are stopped; westbound traffic on 63rd & 65th St is backed up, cars are stopped. When construction starts what will our traffic be like.

This Harlem to Narragansett area is really getting abused

---

**Jennifer Parrott**

CHAT

So I understand the necessity for change and some improvements definitely are needed. I would imagine a more effective improvement would be to bridge either the railroad over the street or bridge the streets over the railroad. There are MANY elderly people who have only lived on 64th Street and displacing them would be detrimental to their lives. Has this been considered?

---

**Sheila Grisamore**

CHAT

I don't see this video front and center on website. If link above is clicked on, it doesn't seem to go to video

## Emil Lach

### VERBAL

Okay, I had submitted an idea, a year ago and probably 10 or 12 years ago to congressman Lipinski at a local meeting, and it has the one benefit that it has is that there are no red lights and my idea it's kind of a mini clover overly with extended the junk handle on the west side of 65th, the Harlem. And another lowered loop, the idea would be raising probably Harlem and the railroad tracks a little bit, and to tunnel under the railroad tracks and Harlem and provide easy access. It seems like from the idea that I just watched the video that it's a kind of a proven concept that's been done on, I 55 and central and pulaski and maybe on Torrance and I-94, and you know that it looks like a great idea, except that people have to stop there once again.

And my idea eliminates that, I'm not a civil engineer, I don't know if there's enough land be beyond the US truck lot on the west side of Harlem and maybe a little bit of the Argo high school athletic field that would need to be acquired. But I'm curious if, if my idea was ever considered. And if you are aware of it at this point. That's about it.

---

## Misael

### VERBAL

Hi, good afternoon. I live in the 67. I'm sorry the 7200 block of 62nd place. I see I'm in this area, and I really haven't done much research on what you guys are doing. But how am I going to be back. And we'll be getting flooded.

Thank you.

---

## Mayor David Brady

### VERBAL

The village [village of Bedford Park] is estatic with the plans, we're very appreciative to Wendy and her team. I got congressman Lipinski on when he was in office for the work on a project. We think the projects going to benefit the southwest side, and especially the businesses. The village is committed to work with the two businesses in Bedford Park. They're most effective with the changes. But again, thank you very, very much for the work was great to see it visually tonight. Thank you.

---

## Ms. L Gates

### VERBAL

I thought you guys were going to read the comments in the chat box. My question is, do you guys know how the independent appraisal process will be implemented?

Okay, let me ask it a different way on the video on the block that I live, I don't see any houses, so that means that you need this space to expand or what have you?

---

## Sandy Resner

### VERBAL

My issue is that I live at 7100 block of West 63rd place. And this is the first information that we've gotten about this project there was no other free information we didn't know about this meeting, until we got it, the flyer in the mail but never had a flyer before. So how do we make for that we are included had a flyer before. So how do we make sure that we are included. And what's, what's going to be ongoing. Since this is so close to my home. That's it.

You just mentioned six properties anchored here, where those properties were, were they on the east side of Harlem the properties in question on the north leg of old Harlem Avenue, and the north end of old Terrell Avenue, North leg of old Harlem Avenue at 65th and old Harlem.

## **Tony Ontiveros**

### **VERBAL**

I just had a quick question. I do like to design that you showed on the video. My question is, are you guys going to post alternate designs, or is that the one that's going to be accepted going forward. Thank you.

---

## **Edward Konarski**

### **VERBAL**

My name is spelled EDWARD KONARSK Hi.

And my question is, is this the first time I've been on one of these forums. And my god I'm concerned about what is being done now. In the present time. About two trains that I go back and forth into these yards. I mean your solution is, you know, three, four years down the line, and the meantime we're living in this area. And I've complained about them and nobody's really ever gotten back to me on it. I'd like to know if there are any type of players to alleviate them some type of scheduling, but something definitely must be done. Thank you.

---

## **Dennis McGovern**

### **VERBAL**

I am the engineer from Dore on 65th Street. What is this project supposed to start and how will it affect my school.

---

## **Sandi Leamon**

### **VERBAL**

Hi, I, I am very grateful for this project to happen I've lived in the neighborhood my whole life and I've been trapped by those trains on the wrong side forever, but also as a bicyclist, I sometimes feel trapped in the neighborhood, trying to get over around the various bridges that are not pedestrian friendly. I'm wondering if how the pedestrian friendly or the bike friendly areas of that bridge are going to occur is the bridge going over old are going over Harlem going to allow for bikes and pedestrians to get to the south end of the belt way how safe is it for pedestrians and bikes to get in that area I feel like that's important. You can see that there's a lot of people that have gone over those and they weren't in the tracks and the landscape, but something that's a bit more friendly would be greatly appreciated. Probably for all the people who need to get by foot from one area to the other. So, but very grateful and thankful that we have this happening so that we're not all wasting time sitting there waiting for those trains to prosper I know it's a couple of years away, but it's great for it to come to fruition soon, so thank you.