

The Metra Fox River bridge is the only single-track segment on the Milwaukee West Line and creates a bottleneck.

The track carries Metra commuter trains and Canadian Pacific Railroad freight trains.

PURPOSE

To replace and improve the bridge infrastructure

NEED

- ✓ Existing bridge is in poor condition
- ✓ Existing single-track bridge creates a bottleneck that impacts train service reliability
- ✓ Existing signal system needs to be updated to comply with Positive Train Control (PTC) requirements

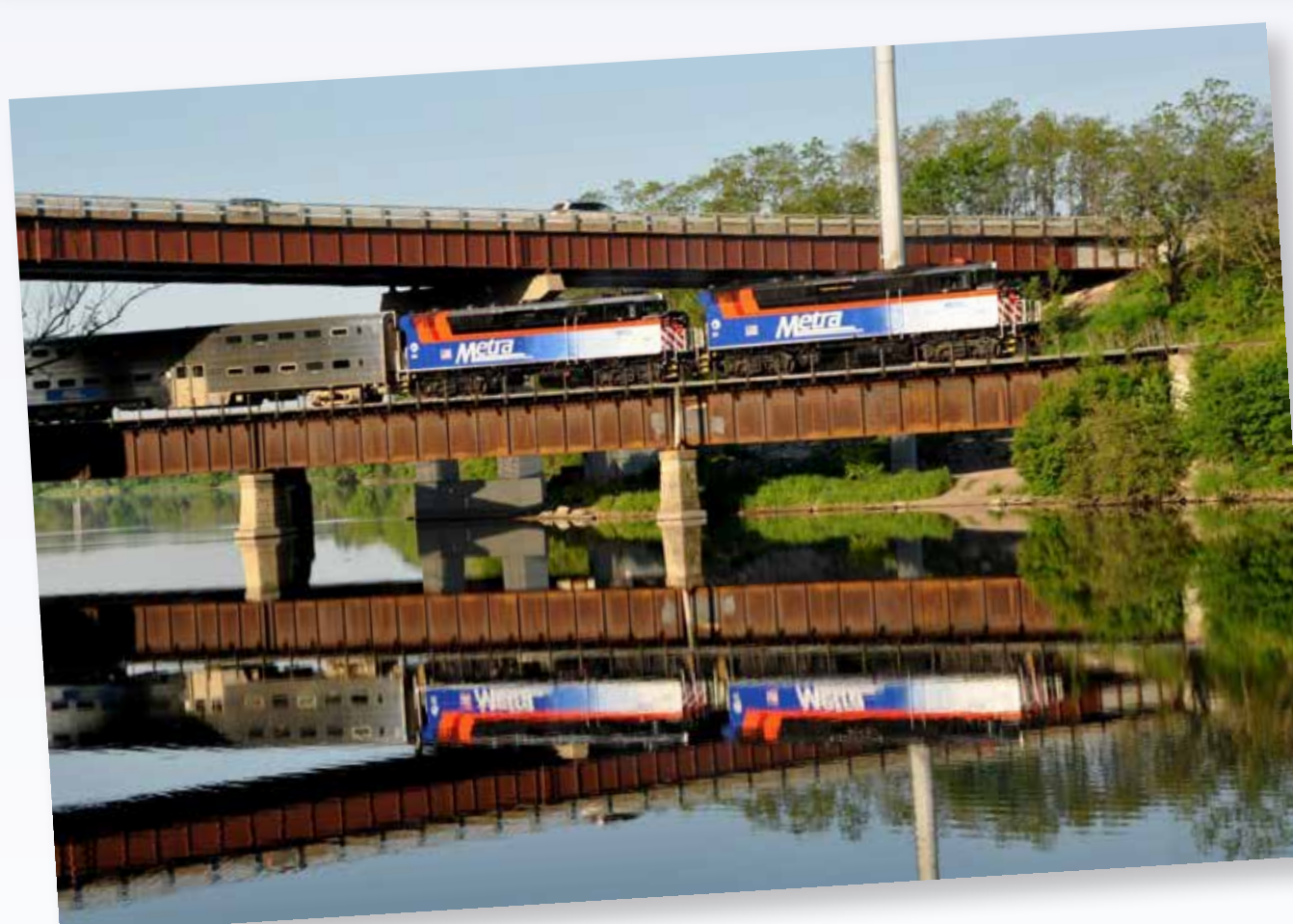
What is PTC?

A federally mandated advanced signal system designed to automatically stop a train before collision or derailment.

PROJECT BENEFITS

The project will improve train on-time performance by:

- ✓ Replacing bridge with completely new, expanded structure
- ✓ Providing a second mainline track across the Fox River
- ✓ Eliminating the bottleneck
- ✓ Reducing conflicts between commuter train and freight traffic on the corridor



Additionally, two tracks reduce the need for interruptions in train service during track maintenance.

The project will also reduce impacts on water flow in the Fox River by reducing the number of piers in the river.

Minimal impact to commuter service during construction

- > No displacements or relocations are anticipated
- > After mitigation, no temporary or permanent impacts to endangered species are anticipated
- > Metra will follow Best Management Practices and implement an Incidental Take Authorization to avoid/minimize impacts on spike mussels
- > Reduced number of bridge piers, resulting in less impacts on water flow in the river



Metra is following the Federal National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process to evaluate potential impacts on physical, human, and natural environments in the project area.

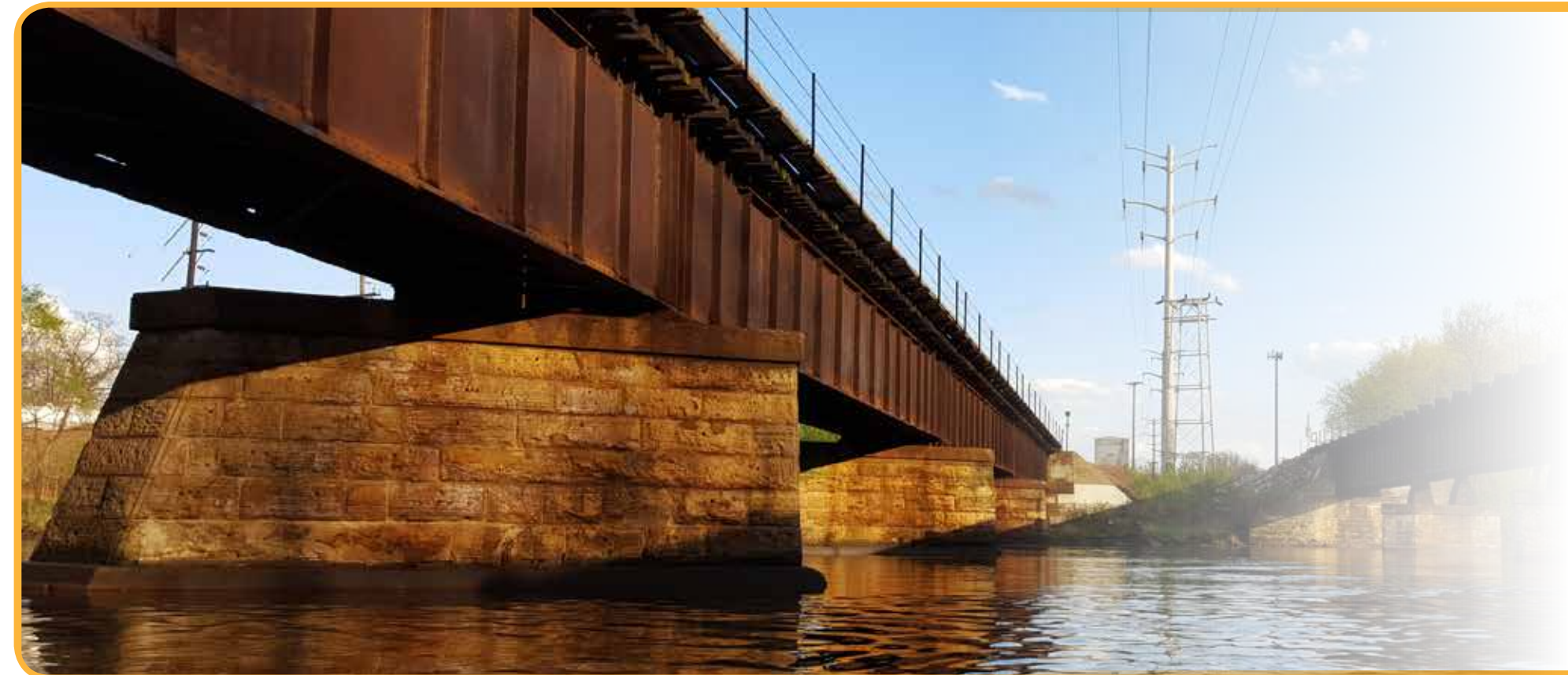
The EA evaluates whether or not the project will affect:

- > Existing properties, community and businesses, historic and archaeological resources, natural and biological resources, air and water quality, noise and vibration, etc.
- > The EA also considers stakeholder input

Summary of key potential impacts:

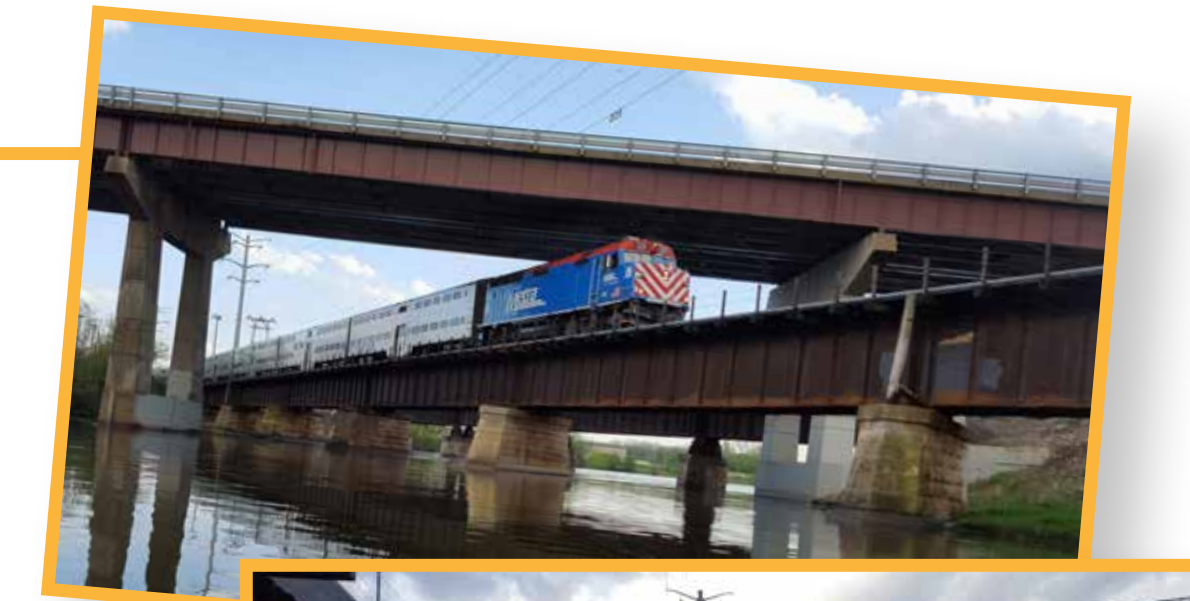
- > **Minor temporary construction impacts** on local communities/businesses such as noise, dust, vibration, and temporary utility disruption
- > **Minor temporary impacts to water quality** as work is being done to construct the bridge
- > **Minor impacts to Elgin Avenue grade crossing.** A temporary track crossing will be provided as construction work is taking place.
- > 0.97 acres of **temporary construction easements** from Union Pacific Railroad
- > 0.33 acres of **land or permanent easements** acquired from Union Pacific Railroad

View the EA online at <https://metrarail.com/about-metra/reports-documents/project-studies/current-project-studies/z-100-ea>. Physical copies are located at the Gail Borden Public Library 2nd Floor Information Desk in Elgin and the Metra headquarters in Chicago.



No-Build Alternative

- > Requires significant repairs
- > Does not meet the project purpose and need



Preferred Build Alternative

Multiple build concepts were developed, evaluated and narrowed down to determine which best meets the project purpose and need while also minimizing environmental impacts.

- ✓ **New, modern bridge structure** with a ballasted deck and **three concrete piers** (two fewer than the existing bridge)
- ✓ Replace the existing single-track bridge with a **new double-track bridge**
- ✓ **New signal components** including a new interlocking
- ✓ **New backup generator** and switch snow-melters



Looking South



We welcome your input!

Comments submitted by **March 16, 2017** will become part of the public hearing record.

Ways to comment

- Provide comments to a court reporter this evening
- Fill out and submit comment form this evening or via mail
- Email comments to ProjectZ100NEPA@metrarr.com

Metra
Comment Form
Milwaukee West Line Fox River Bridge Improvement
Public Hearing - March 2, 2017

Metra prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed improvements of the Milwaukee West Line Fox River Bridge in the City of Elgin. The purpose of the project is to improve the Milwaukee West Line and address deteriorating infrastructure. The EA was made available for public review and comment on February 10, 2017 at <https://metrarrail.com/about-metra/reports-documents/project-studies/current-project-studies/z-100-ea>, the Gail Borden Public Library in Elgin, and the Metra headquarters in Chicago.

Public comments will be accepted through Thursday, March 16, 2017. Please place your comment forms in the box marked "COMMENTS" today, or fold in thirds, tape closed, place a stamp and mail. Comments can also be submitted via email to ProjectZ100NEPA@metrarr.com.

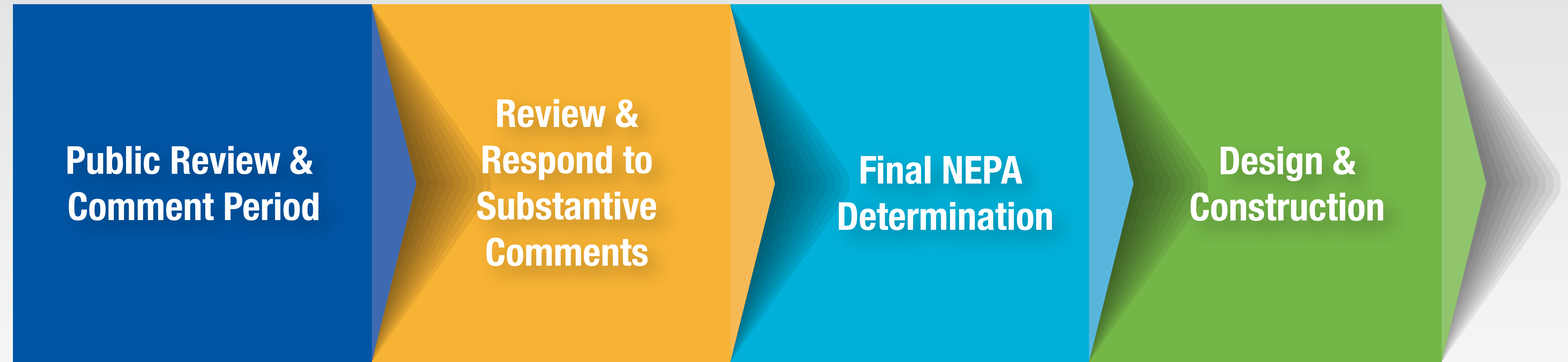
(Optional, Please Print)
Name /Affiliation _____
Address _____
City/State _____
Phone No. _____
E-Mail Address _____ Zip Code _____

COST & FUNDING

Cost estimated at **\$34 million**

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This project is funded by a combination of local and federal sources including Metra, Canadian Pacific Railroad, and a U.S. Department of Transportation TIGER grant administered by the Federal Transit Administration



*National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

Following the public review and comment period, Metra and FTA will review and respond to substantive comments. The FTA will issue a finding on the proposed project based on the significance of impacts identified. Once a final NEPA determination is issued, the design and construction of the project would move forward.

**Construction start anticipated
3rd quarter of 2017**