



Advisory Committee Meeting #2

October 26, 2017

10 am - 12 pm

AGENDA

- **Partner agency updates**
- **Challenges facing freight and industry**
- **Positioning Cook County**
- **Plan framework**
- **Next steps**

PARTNER AGENCY UPDATES

- **IDOT State Freight Plan**
- **CREATE INFRA application**
- **CMAP ON TO 2050 and the Regional Strategic Freight Direction**
- **Tollway studies**
- **Connecting Cook County Updates**



Challenges Facing Freight and Industry

FREIGHT DRIVES THE ECONOMY

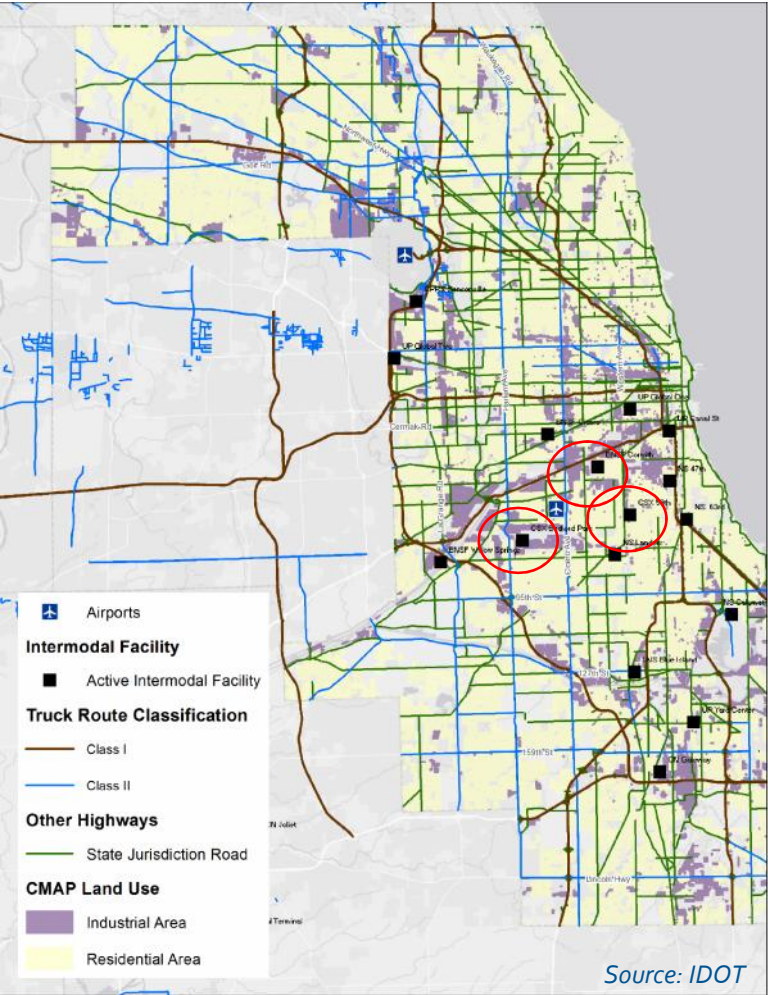
- Freight-related industries comprise 56% of Cook County's economic output (2012)
- Manufacturing, transportation and trade sectors continue to grow, creating more traffic and challenges for the freight system



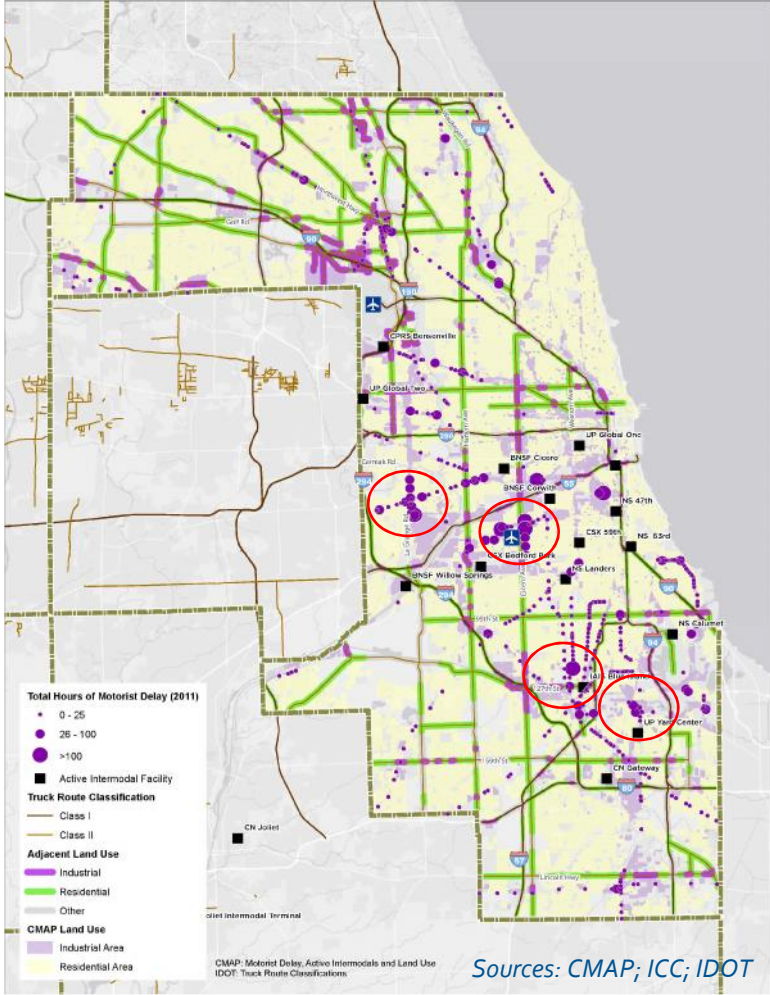
Source: US Economic Census

FREIGHT INFRASTRUCTURE CHALLENGES

Truck Route Connectivity

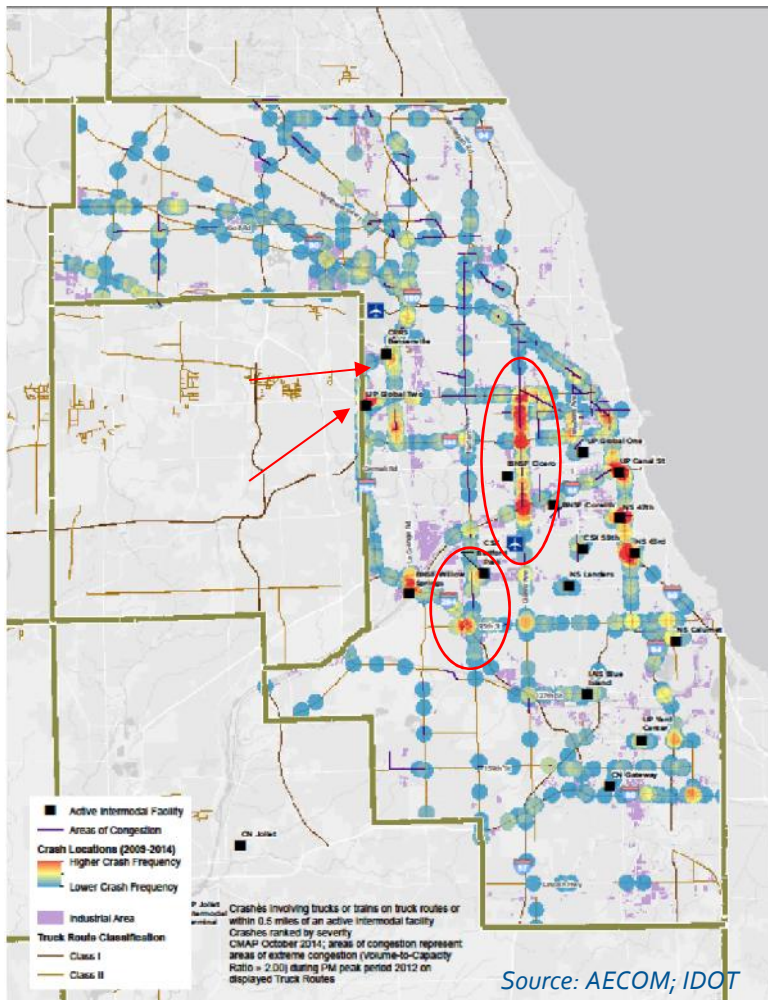


At-Grade Crossing Delay

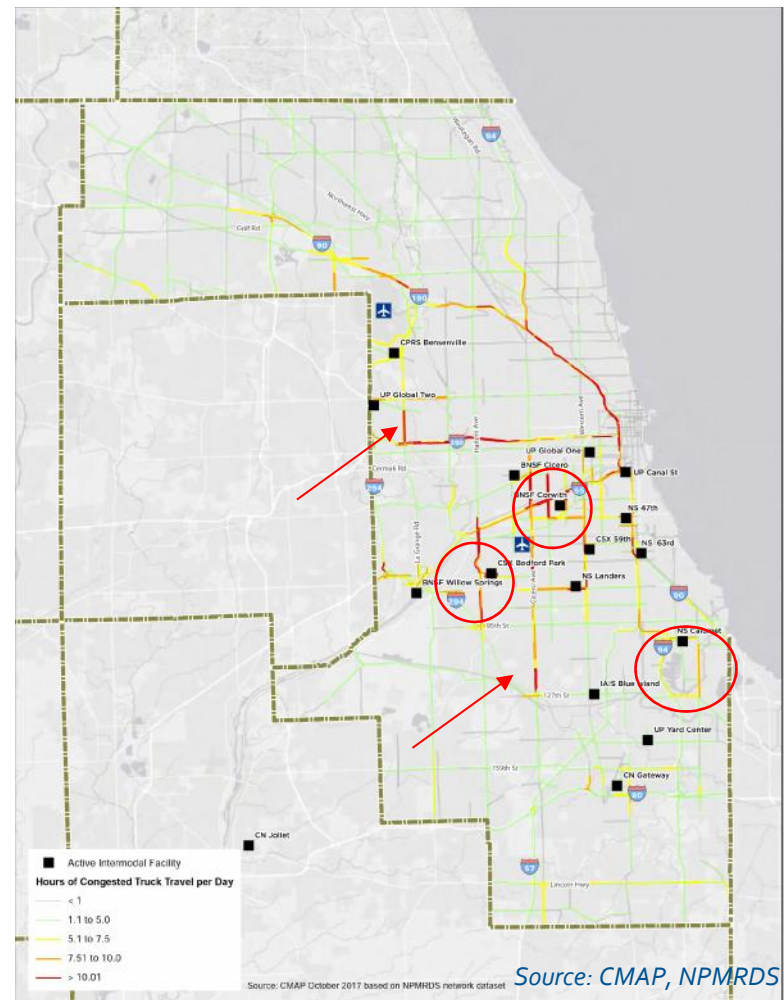


FREIGHT INFRASTRUCTURE CHALLENGES

Truck Safety (Crashes)

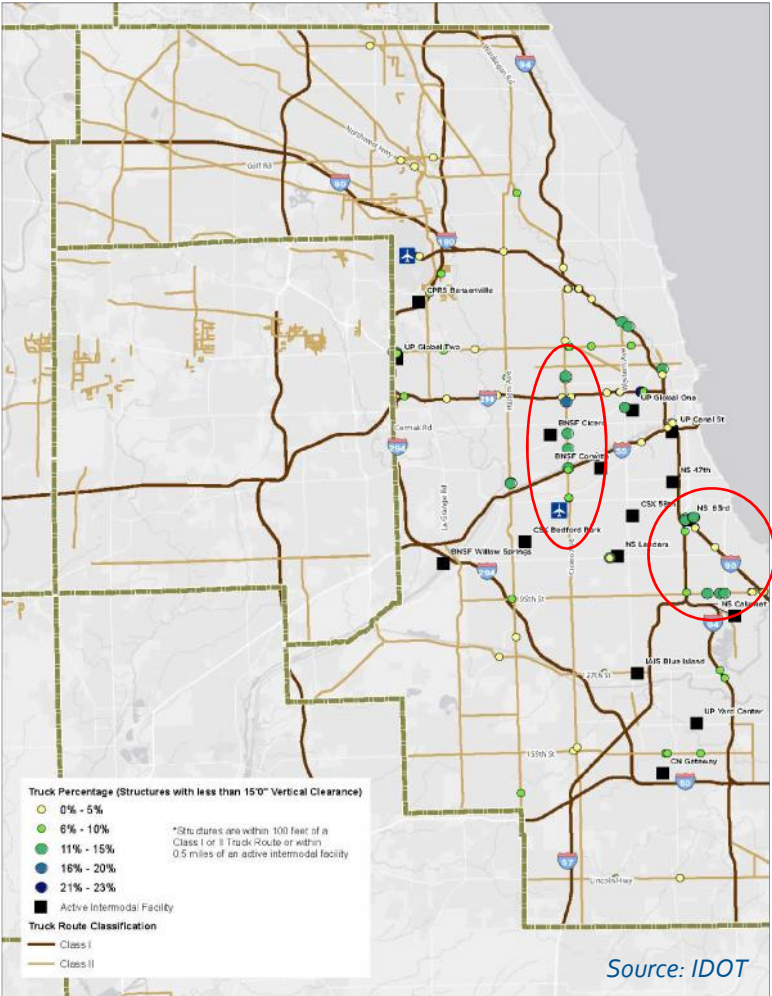


Truck Congestion (Truck Routes)

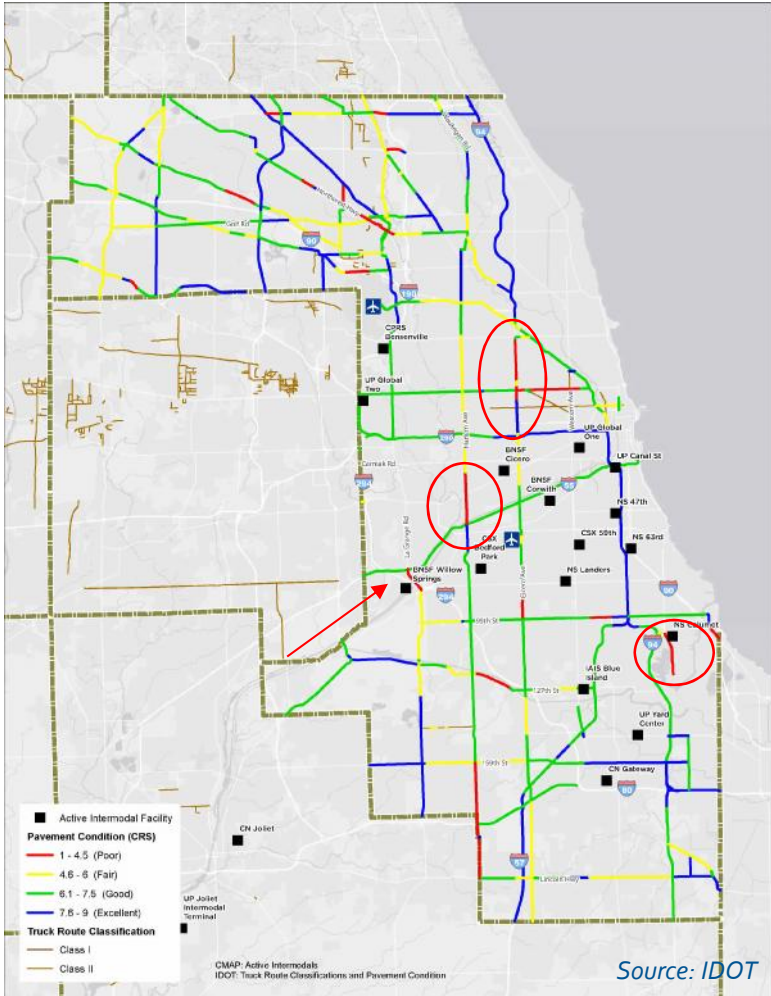


FREIGHT INFRASTRUCTURE CHALLENGES

Vertical Clearances



Pavement Condition



FREIGHT INFRASTRUCTURE CHALLENGES



167th St. Looking West Toward Center St. and CN Intermodal Terminal

- **167th St. Harvey**
 - Connecting manufacturing districts and rail facilities to interstate

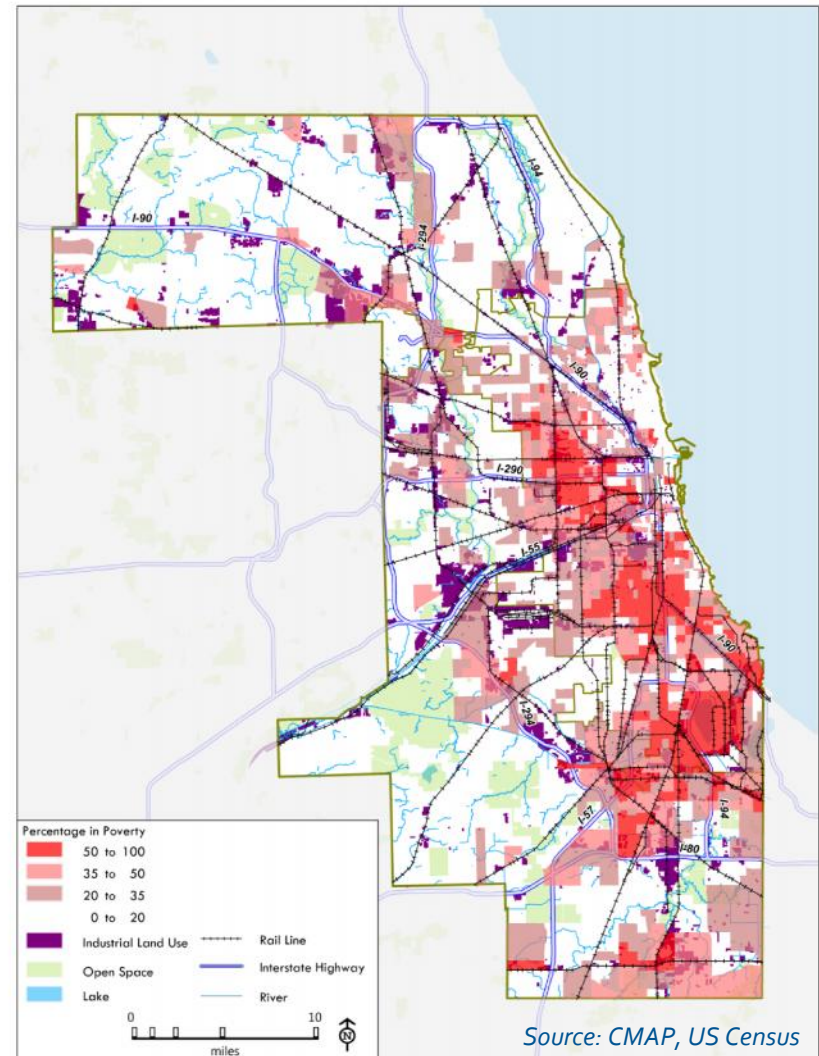


167th St. Looking East From Center St.

CHALLENGES WITH INDUSTRIAL LOCATIONS

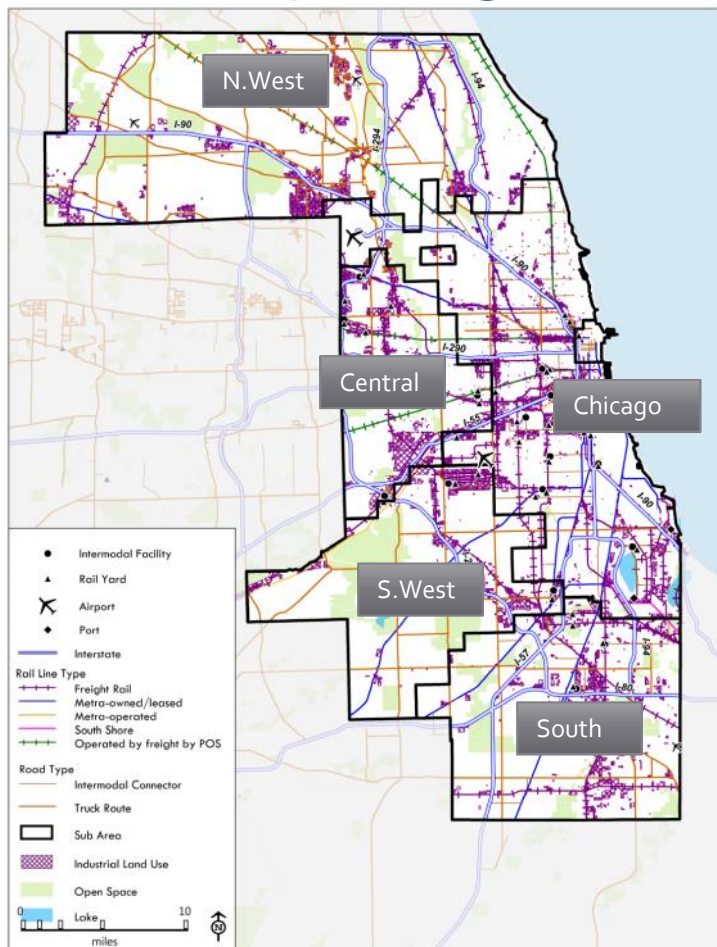
- **Unbalanced growth:**
 - Leads to misalignment between job locations and available workers
 - Limits access to industrial jobs, which are typically higher paying than service sector jobs
 - Has produced fewer industrial jobs in S/SW Cook
 - Lower job density
 - Lengthy, more complicated transit options

High Poverty vs. Industrial Land Use



REDEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES

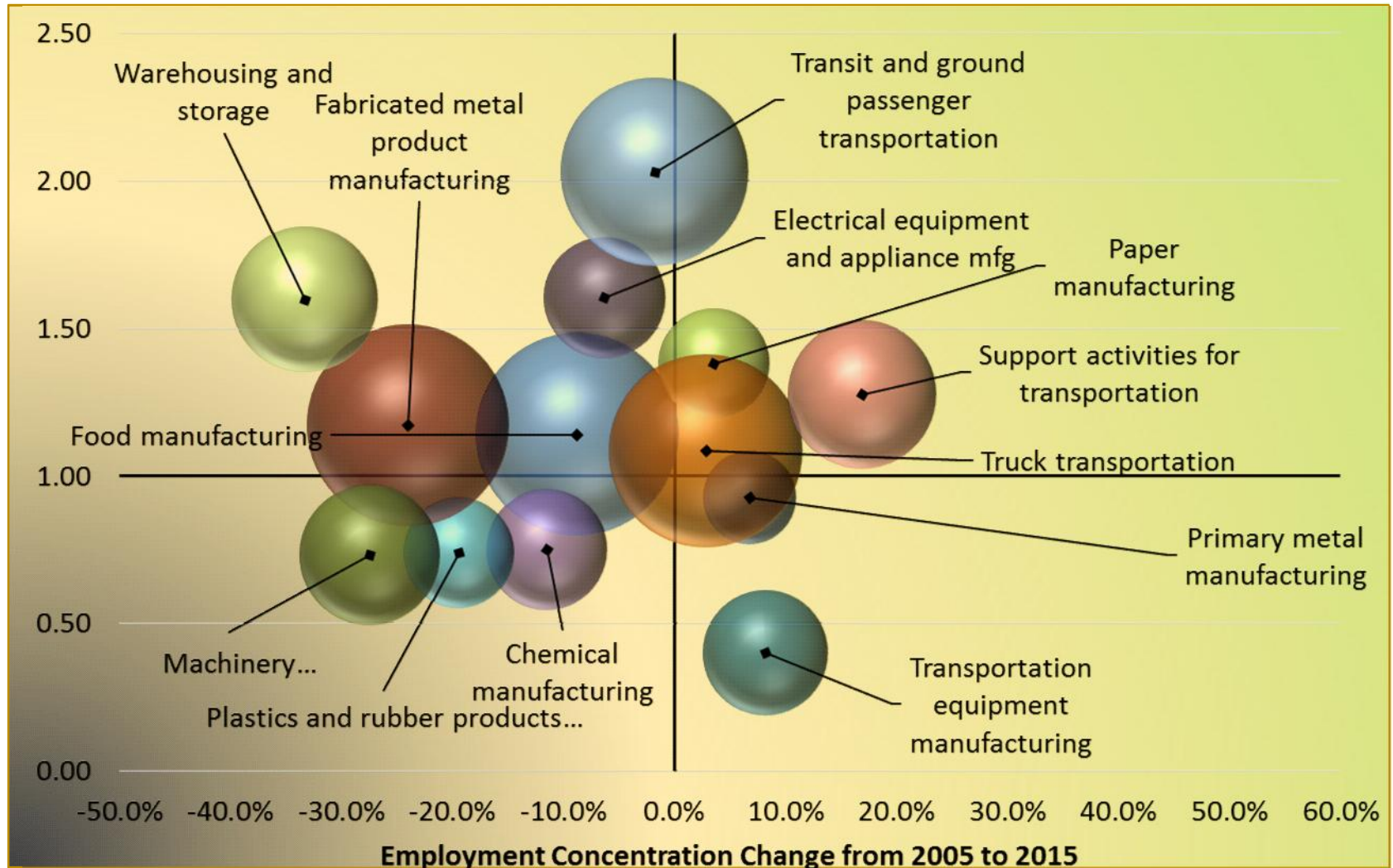
Land Use by Subregion



- Concentration of underutilized land in South Cook County
- Challenges to reuse of land
 - Site consolidation
 - Brownfield status / environmental contamination
 - High tax rates, back taxes, cloudy titles

Sub Area	Industrial Acres	Vacant and Underutilized Acres	Percent Vacant or Underutilized
Central	7,118	2,066	29%
Chicago	8,382	3,342	40%
Northwest	10,023	2,175	22%
Southwest	4,911	1,496	31%
South	5,784	2,886	50%
Cook County	36,218	11,965	33%

CHANGING INDUSTRY TRENDS



WORKFORCE CHALLENGES

- **Changing workforce**
 - Aging workforce
 - Railroad workers retiring
 - Difficulty filling specialized positions: truck drivers, welders, forklift operators, and others

- **Gap between available workers and available jobs**
 - Transportation/warehousing related jobs are growing while manufacturing and construction industries are losing jobs
 - Training programs to match skills and jobs

- **Next generation challenges**
 - Millennials may be less interested in freight/manufacturing jobs
 - Potential upcoming shortages in replacement workforce



Positioning Cook County

INDUSTRY INPUT

- Cook County conducted interviews with South Suburban manufacturing stakeholders
- Emerging Themes:
 - Infrastructure condition/support for municipal improvements
 - Difficulty in assembling industrial sites – greener pastures are enticing
 - Thinking outside the box—rail
- Next steps: Interviews with manufacturers in Northwest Cook County



STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEWS

- **Local, Regional and National Stakeholders Interviewed:**
 - Current leadership
 - Current challenges
 - Areas that need leadership
 - Areas that need policy, planning or investment changes

THEMES

- **“We lack a freight champion in a real, meaningful way.”**
- **“Cook County should fill the gap where other jurisdictions aren’t focusing.”**
- **“Don’t look at just what you have responsibility for but look at what affects your responsibilities.”**

WHAT WE HEARD

- **LOCAL/REGIONAL ROLES**
 - Public outreach on importance of maintaining freight hub
 - Communicate the benefits
 - Coordinate with other counties
 - Advocate for state infrastructure package
 - Provide connections on environmental issues
 - Provide connections on workforce issues

WHAT WE HEARD

- **NATIONAL ROLES**
 - Advocate on freight issues with our Congressional delegation:
 - CREATE Program
 - Regional projects in national infrastructure package and continued reliable freight funding
 - Port District of Chicago/barge traffic improvements

WHAT WE HEARD

- **LOCAL/REGIONAL PRIORITIES**
 - Coordinate truck routes and permitting
 - Fund local street infrastructure improvements
 - Focus on leveraging additional funds to address bottlenecks
 - Prioritize grade separations

WHAT WE HEARD

- **LOCAL/REGIONAL PRIORITIES (cont'd)**
 - Fund grade separations (where funding gap exists or complexity exceeds municipal capacity)
 - Evaluate/recommend truck parking
 - Identify appropriate Highway/Tollway access ramps
 - Coordinate hazardous material response



PLAN FRAMEWORK

NORTH AMERICA'S FREIGHT CAPITAL

Cook County will:

- Remove capacity constraints and bottlenecks that limit trucking and rail freight commerce
- Reinforce land use and development practices that build upon the region's role as a freight center

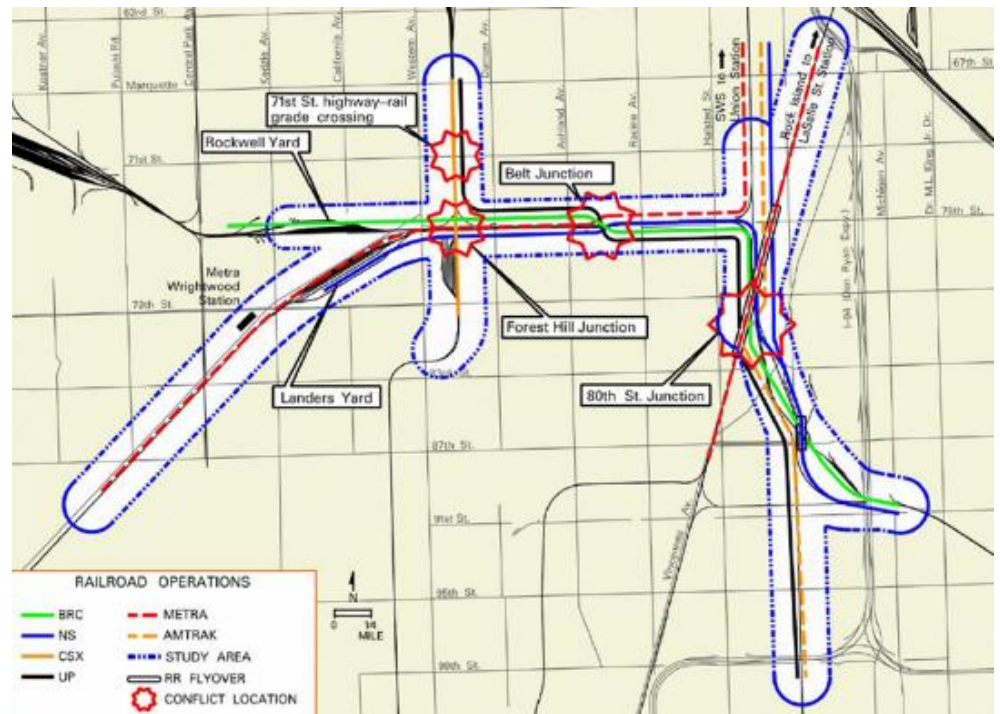
Initiative	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Identify <i>opportunity projects</i> to improve rail traffic (e.g. Lincoln Highway) and trucking traffic (e.g. Touhy Avenue)	▶				
Become an active supporter of the CREATE partnership	▶				
Develop a County freight plan	▶				
Support the 75 th St. Corridor Improvement Project	▶				
Create a County-wide Truck Routing, Infrastructure, and Permitting (TRIP) Program		▶			
Prepare and implement a prioritization plan for suburban rail grade crossings			▶		

FREIGHT PLAN FOCUS AREAS

- **Support and strengthen rail system and CREATE Program**
- **Implement the TRIP program**
 - Define Cohesive Truck Route Network
 - Invest in Infrastructure
 - Align OS/OW Permitting
- **Support freight-related development and land use**
- **Prepare workforce for freight sector jobs**

RAIL SYSTEM OPPORTUNITIES

- **CREATE Program**
 - 75th St CIP
 - Grade Crossings
 - Program Completion
- **Exploring other rail improvement opportunities**
 - Invest in Cook
 - Lincoln Highway Logistics Corridor

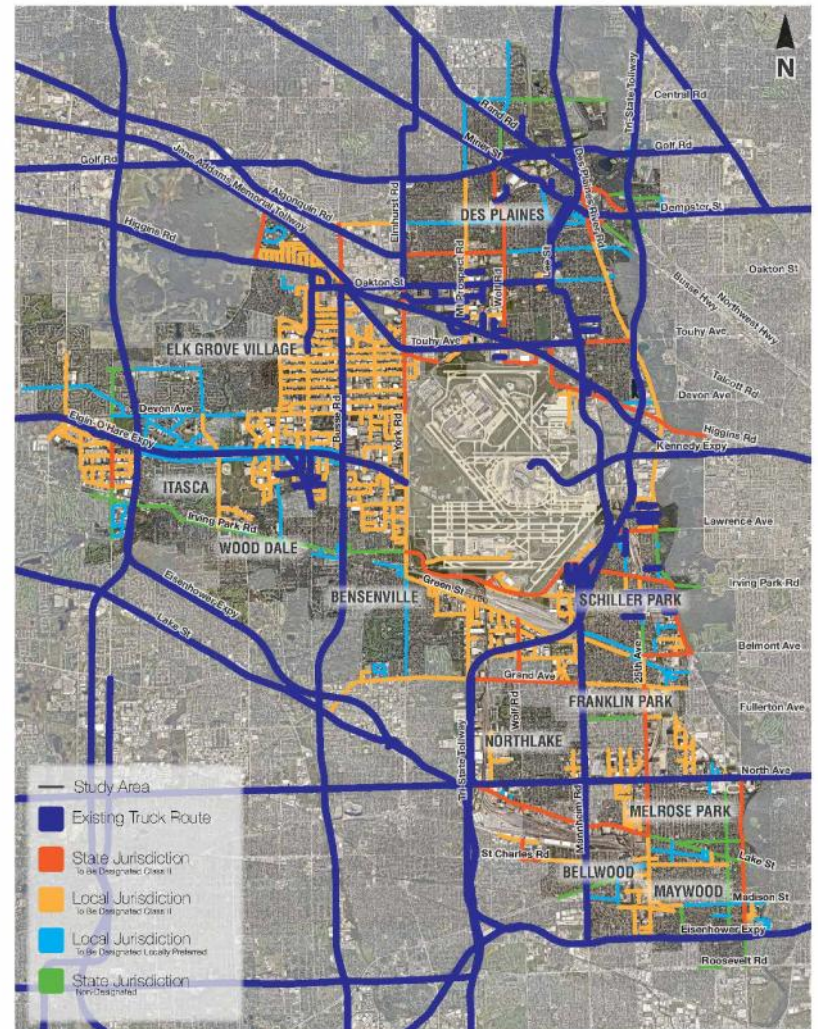


Source: CREATE

TRUCK ROUTE NETWORK

- **O'Hare Subregion Truck Routes Study**
 - Identified a comprehensive network
 - Approach can be a starting point to identifying County-wide network
- **Identify network that links industrial districts in Chicago, suburban Cook, and adjoining counties to the NHS**

Proposed Truck Route Network - Implementation



Source: CMAP, Cambridge Systematics

DRAFT ONLY - NOT FOR NAVIGATION

INVEST IN INFRASTRUCTURE

- Lead priority regional projects
- Redirect existing resources to support freight projects at the local level
- Target strategic freight corridors
- Invest in last-mile connections to industrial and intermodal facilities

156th St. Improvements near LB Steel



OSOW VEHICLE PERMITTING

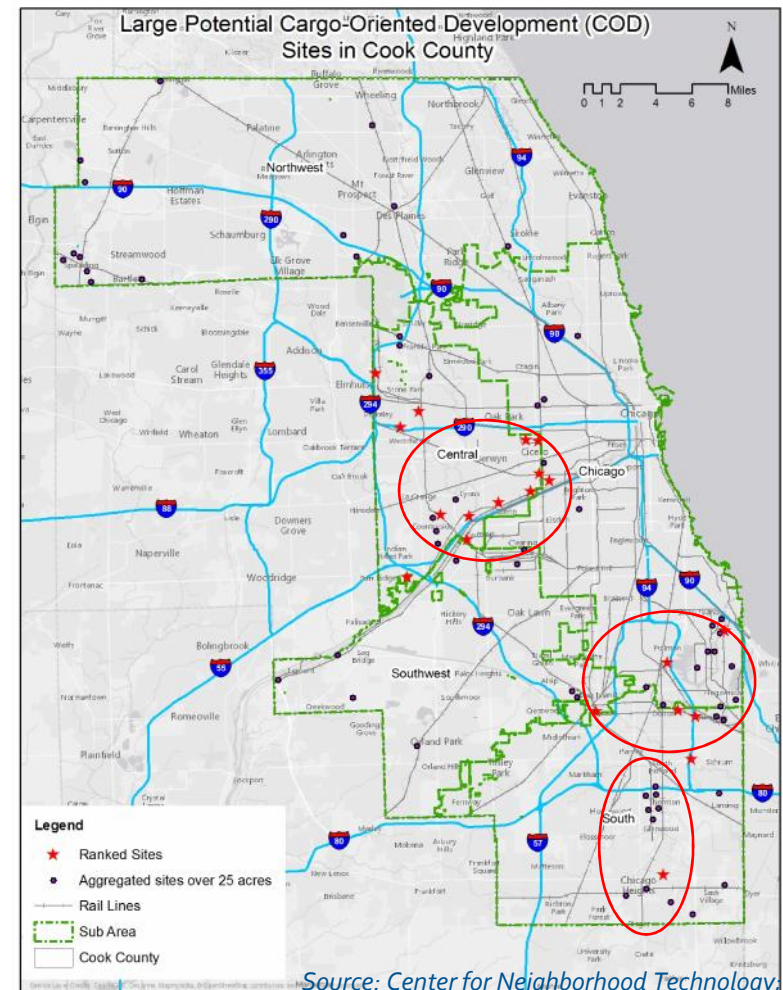
- **Oversize/overweight vehicles create particular infrastructure and operational challenges**
- **Current system is fragmented – needs state, county, and local coordination**
- **Cook County will explore options for a unified, streamlined system**
 - Hiring a Permit Manager to lead the charge



SUPPORT FREIGHT-RELATED LAND USE

- Cook County's rich infrastructure makes it a prime location for Transportation/Distribution/Logistics firms
- Opportunities for the County to...
 - Position and market for opportunities
 - Align infrastructure with growing needs
 - Undertake site pre-development activities

Potential Industrial Sites

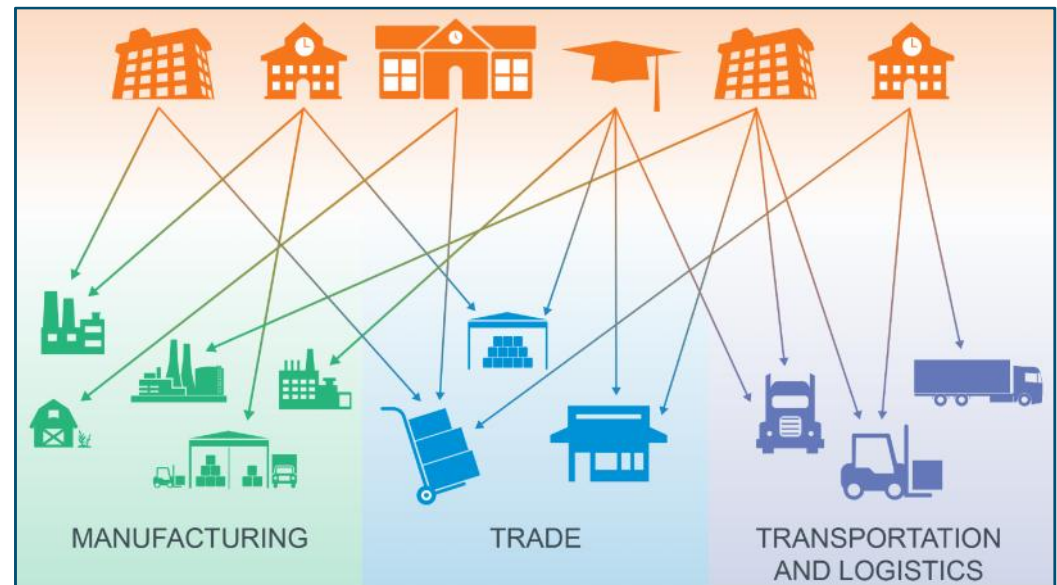


Source: Center for Neighborhood Technology,
Cook County Assessor's Office, CMAP

WORKFORCE TRAINING

- **Connect employers benefitting from improvements to workforce training agencies**
 - Agencies to customize training to industry needs
 - Agencies to pre-screen candidates as a service to prospective employers
- **Opportunity for Cook County to support / provide these connections**

Educational Institutions and Workforce Training Programs





Discussion and Next Steps

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- **Are the roles identified for Cook County the right ones? Which carry greater weight/importance?**
- **Where do you see the strengths in this recommendations framework?**
- **What do you see as the greatest challenges in the framework?**
- **What is the “headline to read” to demonstrate success of the Cook County Freight Plan?**

NEXT STEPS

- Continue stakeholder outreach
- Conduct analysis of goods moving to/from/within/through the County
- Identify and prioritize projects, strategies, and actions
- *Next FAC Meeting: assess projects, strategies, and actions.*



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