

Appendix G: Environmental Screening

To streamline the environmental review process, the study team conducted a preliminary environmental screening for the proposed transit improvements within the project area. Certain items were identified and flagged for further study in the next phase of the project. This environmental screening focuses on the elements included in the FTA's NEPA CE checklist, which would serve as the template for future environmental analysis. The checklist includes impacts to land use, traffic, historic resources, noise and vibration levels, right-of-way, hazardous materials, social impacts, environmental justice, recreational resources, natural resources, endangered species, safety and security, and construction. The screening focuses on specific areas within the project area and the consideration of potential impacts and avoidance and minimization of sensitive environmental resources. A summary of the impacts is included in Table 1.

The environmental impacts of each alternative are identical in most cases. The primary difference between the alternatives would be that Alternative 1 would have the least impact on traffic, parking, and construction. Alternative 2 would have additional traffic and construction impacts from 129th Street to 154th Street as compared to Alternative 1. Similarly, Alternative 3 shares these impacts and would also have additional parking and construction impacts from 100th Street to 154th Street, as compared to Alternative 2.

TABLE 1: SUMMARY OF IMPACTS

Resources	Level of Impact
Metropolitan Planning and Air Quality Conformity	Low
Land Use and Zoning	Low
Traffic Impacts	Low-Medium
CO Hot Spots	Low
PM2.5 and PM10 Hot Spots	Low
Historic Resources	Low
Visual Quality	Low
Noise	Low
Vibration	Low
Acquisition and Relocations Required	Low
Hazardous Materials	Low
Social Impacts and Community Disruption	Low
Environmental Justice	Low
Use of Public Parkland and Recreation Areas	Low
Impacts to Wetlands	Low
Floodplain Impacts	Low
Impacts on Water Quality, Navigable Waterways, & Coastal Zones	Low
Impacts on Ecologically-Sensitive Areas and Endangered Species	Low
Impacts on Safety and Security	Low
Impacts Caused by Construction	Low

- Metropolitan Planning and Air Quality Conformity – The project area is in Cook County, which is not in attainment of the 8-Hour Ozone and lead National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) and is in maintenance for particulate matter (PM2.5 and PM10). The project was incorporated into the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) on October 25, 2018.
- Land Use and Zoning – A review of land use along the South Halsted Corridor reveals that the area has been primarily used for industrial, commercial, business, and residential properties. A review of aerial images from Google Earth found that several structures have

been removed or activity at the parcels has ceased, but the designated land use remains valid.

- **Traffic Impacts** – The project would implement designated bus lanes and queue jumps within the South Halsted Corridor. To accommodate the bus lanes and queue jumps, geometric alterations to the roadway and intersections are recommended. This would require repurposing a travel lane or parking in certain areas, resulting in low to moderate impacts to traffic and parking. The exact placement of bus stations is still under consideration, but the final determination would have minimal impacts to the general traffic and parking. Because they involve the repurposing of a general travel lane from 129th Street to 154th, Alternatives 2 and 3 would result in greater traffic impacts than Alternative 1. Similarly, due to the reduction of parking from 100th Street to 129th Street, Alternative 3 would impact parking more than Alternatives 1 or 2. No alternatives are anticipated to have significant impacts to traffic or parking.
- **CO Hot Spots** – The project area is in Cook County, which is in attainment for carbon monoxide (CO). No significant impact to CO emissions is anticipated. Therefore, a hot-spot analysis is not anticipated to be required.
- **PM2.5 and PM10 Hot Spots** – The project area is in Cook County, which is in maintenance for particulate matter (PM2.5 and PM10). However, any potential impacts on regional emissions are accounted for in the CMAP TIP. No significant impacts to particulate matter emission are anticipated.
- **Historic Resources** – A half-mile buffer of the project area was reviewed for potential historic resources. The project area is located within or adjacent to any designated or eligible National Register of Historic Places, National Historic Landmark, or Chicago Landmark properties. This includes several potential historic resources located within the project area that are identified in the Chicago Historic Resources Survey (CHRS),¹ the Illinois Historic and Architectural Resources Geographic Information System (HARGIS),² and/or the Zoning and Land Use Map for the Chicago Department of Planning and Development.³ However, no impacts are anticipated. The project would not significantly

¹ <http://webapps1.cityofchicago.org/landmarkswb/search/home.htm>

² <http://gis.hpa.state.il.us/hargis/>

³ <https://gisapps.cityofchicago.org/ZoningMapWeb/?liab=1&config=zoning>

impact the visual quality, noise levels, or vibration levels in the vicinity of these resources due to the existing traffic and bus activity. All resources identified within the half-mile buffer of the project area are shown in Table 2 and Figure 1. The Ridge Historic District was included in the search due to its large size and proximity to the half-mile buffer of the project area. Resources that should be studied further during Phase 2 are flagged in Table 2. All impacts would be minimized to the greatest extent possible.

TABLE 2: HISTORIC RESOURCES AND HISTORIC DISTRICTS WITHIN THE HALF-MILE BUFFER OF THE PROJECT AREA

Resource/District	HARGIS	CHRS/Zoning
749-759 W 79th St*		Orange
7947 S Halsted St*	Undetermined	
8059 S Halsted St*	Undetermined	Green
8201 S Halsted St*	Undetermined	Green
8203 S Halsted St*	Undetermined	
749-751 W 82nd St*		Orange
8630 S Emerald Ave*	Undetermined	Orange/Orange
10227 S Halsted St*	Undetermined	Orange/Orange
Pacesetter Gardens Historic District (13604-13736 S. Lowe Ave)	National Register Historic District	
Ridge Historic District	National Register Historic District	
Brainerd Bungalow Historic District	National Register Historic District	
West Chatham Bungalow Historic District	National Register Historic District	

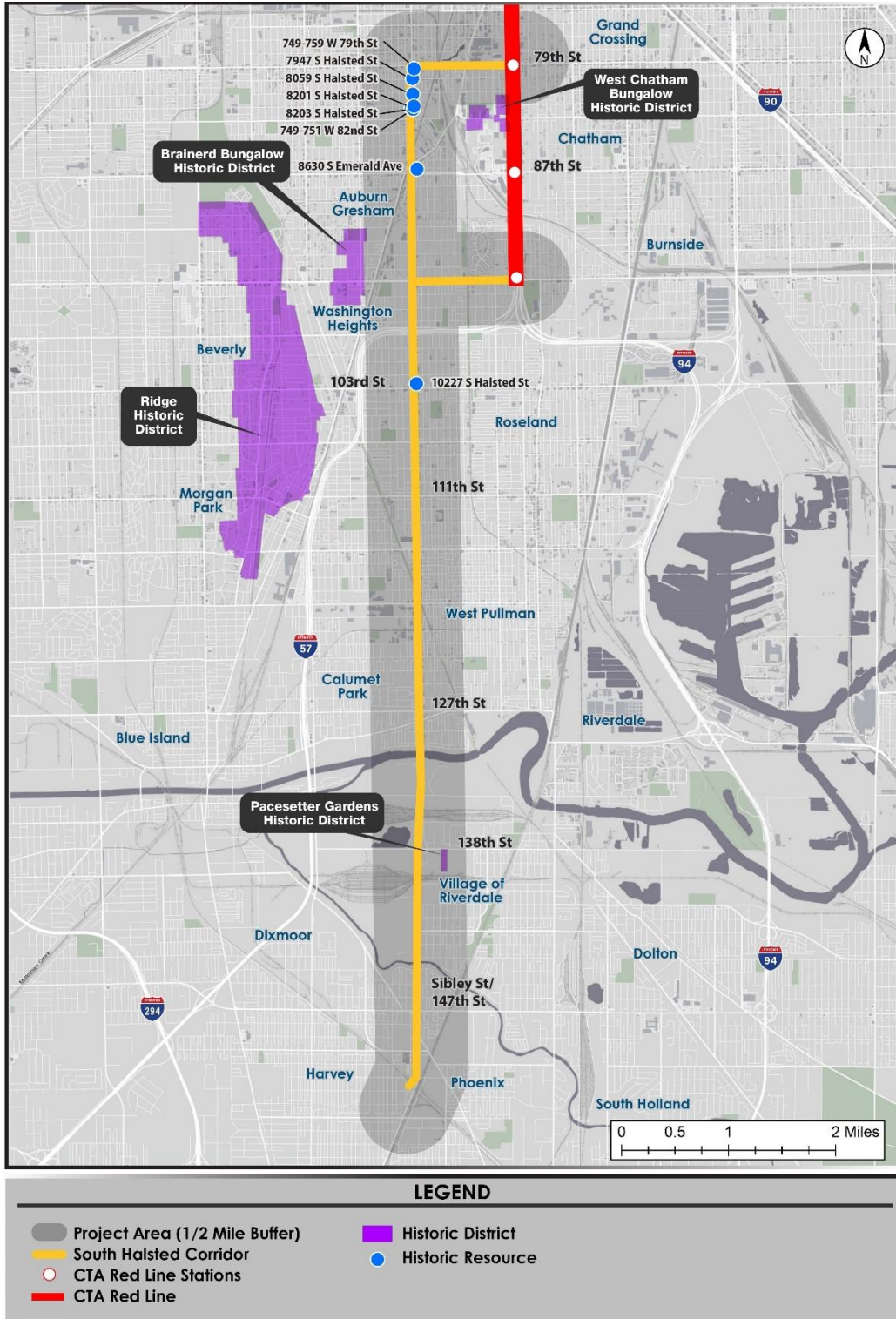
* Should be studied further during Phase 2

Undetermined: Property is recorded in the HARGIS database, but no determination was made if the property was eligible for the National Register.

Orange: Properties possess some architectural feature or historical association that made them potentially significant in the context of the surrounding community.

Green: Properties are pre-1940s whose exteriors have been slightly altered from their original condition. Properties with this color ranking that are included in the Illinois State Survey (ISS), or located within designated or potential Chicago Landmark districts, were included in the CHRS.

FIGURE 1: HISTORIC RESOURCES AND HISTORIC DISTRICTS MAP



- Visual Quality – The project would not result in significant impacts to visual quality due to the existing levels of traffic and bus activity that occur along the South Halsted Corridor.
- Noise – The project would not significantly increase noise levels due to the existing levels of traffic and bus activity that occur along the South Halsted Corridor. Detailed noise analysis is not anticipated to be required for this project.
- Vibration – The project would not significantly increase vibration levels and does not include new or relocated steel rails or tracks. Therefore, no impacts from vibration would occur and a general vibration analysis is not anticipated to be required.
- Acquisition and Relocations Required – The project would require permanent easements at several locations to accommodate bus stations. No land acquisitions or displacements of residences or business would occur.

Hazardous Materials – In total, 67 sites along the corridor have been documented as containing hazardous materials, which is typical for an urban corridor.

Table 3 is a list of the types of facilities with hazardous materials in the corridor by jurisdiction. None of the sites have any documented violations and there is no known hazardous contamination within the project area. If hazardous contamination is found during the planning process, all impacts would be minimized and mitigated to the greatest extent possible. A map of these locations is shown in *Sources: US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Envirofacts* (<https://enviro.epa.gov>)

US EPA EnviroMapper (<https://geopub.epa.gov/myem/efmap/index.html>)

Illinois EPA Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST) Database (<https://www2.illinois.gov/epa/topics/cleanup-programs/bol-database/Pages/leaking-ust.aspx>)

Illinois EPA Site Remediation Program Database (<https://www2.illinois.gov/epa/topics/cleanup-programs/bol-database/Pages/srp.aspx>)

Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal, Division of Petroleum & Chemical Safety
(<http://webapps.sfm.illinois.gov/ustsearch>)

- Figure 2. Table 4 provides the listed locations of the sites containing hazardous materials.

TABLE 3: HAZARDOUS MATERIALS BY FACILITY TYPE AND JURISDICTION

Facility Type	Chicago	Riverdale	Harvey
Automotive Service	5	2	6
Cemetery	0	1	0
Commercial Business	3	1	0
Dry Cleaner	4	0	0
Gas Station	12	1	1
Manufacturing Facility	0	6	0
Pharmacy	2	0	0
Restaurant	1	0	0
Transportation Service	0	3	0
Unknown	6	7	2
Utility	4	0	0

Sources: US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Envirofacts (<https://enviro.epa.gov>)

US EPA EnviroMapper (<https://geopub.epa.gov/myem/efmap/index.html>)

Illinois EPA Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST) Database (<https://www2.illinois.gov/epa/topics/cleanup-programs/bol-database/Pages/leaking-ust.aspx>)

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Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal, Division of Petroleum & Chemical Safety (<http://webapps.sfm.illinois.gov/ustsearch>)

FIGURE 2: HAZARDOUS MATERIALS MAP

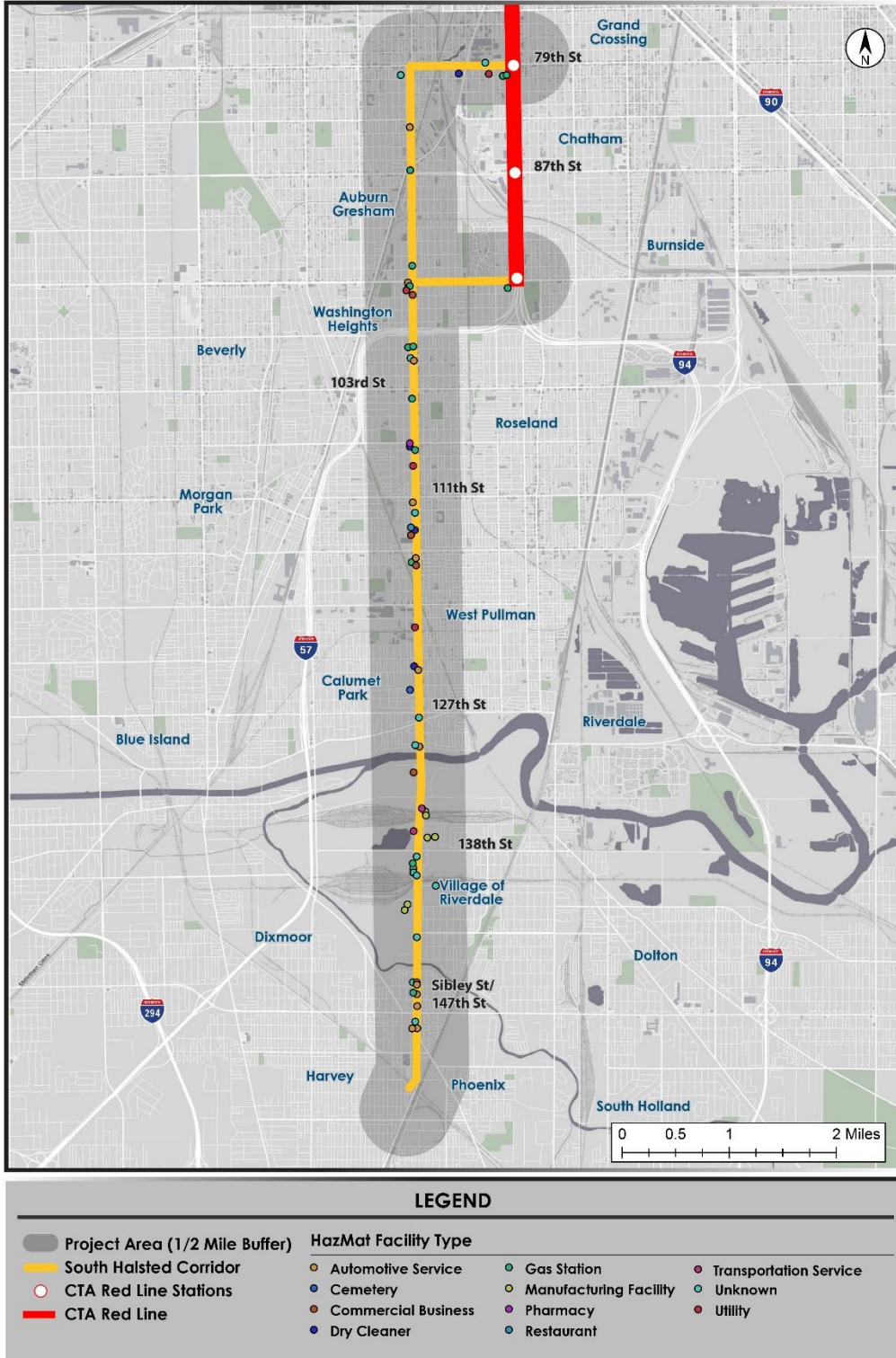


TABLE 4: HAZARDOUS MATERIAL SITE LOCATIONS

Address	City	Type
8259 S Halsted St	Chicago	Gas Station
8654 S Vincennes Ave	Chicago	Gas Station
9301 Halsted St	Chicago	Gas Station
9525 S Halsted St	Chicago	Commercial Business
9434 S Halsted St	Chicago	Pharmacy
9900 S Halsted St	Chicago	Gas Station
10000 S Halsted St	Chicago	Unknown
10001 S Halsted St	Chicago	Automotive Service
9901 S Halsted St	Chicago	Gas Station
10301 S Halsted St	Chicago	Gas Station
108th St & Halsted St	Chicago	Utility
10630 S Halsted St	Chicago	Dry Cleaner
10620 S Halsted St	Chicago	Pharmacy
11129 S Halsted St	Chicago	Unknown
11249 S Halsted St	Chicago	Dry Cleaner
11226 S Halsted	Chicago	Restaurant
11453 S Halsted St	Chicago	Unknown
11500 S Halsted St	Chicago	Gas Station
W 120th St & S Halsted St	Chicago	Utility
12256 S Halsted St	Chicago	Dry Cleaner
12307 S Halsted St	Riverdale	Automotive Service
12540 S Halsted St	Riverdale	Cemetery
12635 S Halsted St	Riverdale	Unknown
12853 S Halsted St	Riverdale	Automotive Service
13417 S Halsted St	Riverdale	Manufacturing Facility
13401 S Halsted St	Riverdale	Transportation Service
13600 S Halstead St	Riverdale	Transportation Service
13631 S Halsted St	Riverdale	Manufacturing Facility
13605 S Halsted St	Riverdale	Manufacturing Facility
13759 S Halsted St	Riverdale	Unknown

Address	City	Type
13856 S Halsted St	Riverdale	Transportation Service
13840 S Halsted St	Riverdale	Unknown
13800 S Halsted St	Riverdale	Gas Station
13860 S Halsted St	Riverdale	Unknown
13900 S Halsted St	Riverdale	Unknown
14100 S Halsted St	Riverdale	Manufacturing Facility
14150 S Halsted St	Riverdale	Manufacturing Facility
14349 S Halsted St	Riverdale	Unknown
14400 S Halsted St	Harvey	Unknown
14459 S Halsted St	Harvey	Automotive Service
14401 S Halsted St	Harvey	Automotive Service
14535 S Halsted St	Harvey	Automotive Service
14407 S Halsted St	Harvey	Automotive Service
14454 S Halsted St	Harvey	Gas Station
147th And Halsted St	Harvey	Unknown
14719 S Halsted St	Harvey	Automotive Service
14720 S Halsted St	Harvey	Automotive Service
140th And Halsted St	Riverdale	Unknown
10655 S Halsted St	Chicago	Gas Station
11048 S Halsted St	Chicago	Automotive Service
11300 S Halsted St	Chicago	Commercial Business
11453 S Halsted St	Chicago	Automotive Service
11525 S Halsted St	Chicago	Commercial Business
12844 S Halsted St	Chicago	Unknown
13100 S Halsted St	Riverdale	Commercial Business
13521 S Halsted St	Riverdale	Manufacturing Facility
8259 S Halsted St	Chicago	Automotive Service
9420 S Halsted St	Chicago	Automotive Service
9458 S Halsted St	Chicago	Gas Station
824 W 95th St	Chicago	Utility
36 W 95th St	Chicago	Gas Station

Address	City	Type
825 W 79th St	Chicago	Unknown
408 W 79th St	Chicago	Dry Cleaner
210 W 79th St	Chicago	Unknown
79th & Wentworth Ave	Chicago	Utility
53 W 79th & Perry Ave	Chicago	Gas Station
7900 S Lafayette Ave	Chicago	Gas Station

Sources: US EPA Envirofacts, US EPA EnviroMapper, Illinois EPA LUST Database, Illinois EPA Site Remediation Program Database, Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal, Division of Petroleum & Chemical Safety

- **Social Impacts and Community Disruption** – This project would have an overall positive impact on the surrounding community. All upgrades and alterations to existing bus stops, sidewalks, and intersections would be updated in compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). During construction some community resources would be temporarily disrupted. All impacts to mobility would be minimized and temporary. Notice of potential lane closures would be provided to the appropriate agencies and emergency services.
- **Environmental Justice** – The project is in an area with a high percentage of minority and low-income populations. The project supports these communities by updating and adding transit service improvements. Community members and stakeholders will continue to be involved throughout the planning process.
- **Use of Public Parkland and Recreation Areas** – There are recreational areas and trails along the South Halsted Corridor within the project area. The most notable impact to these Section 4(f) properties occurs at 144th Street. Kickapoo Woods is a forest preserve located on the west side of South Halsted Street between 142nd Street and the Little Calumet River. The 144th Street southbound Pulse station footprint is proposed to be located on the edge of the preserve, which would require a permanent easement. The station is not anticipated to adversely affect any of the activities, features, or attributes associated with Kickapoo Woods and would likely result in a de minimis impact finding for this resource under Section 4(f). The project area crosses several trails, including the Cal-Sag Trail and the Major Taylor Trail. However, since these trail crossings occur at existing roadways, no use under Section 4(f) is anticipated. During construction, access to these trails may be temporarily disrupted.

- Impacts to Wetlands – No National Wetland Inventory (NWI) wetlands are mapped within the project area. Work for the project would primarily occur within existing right-of-way. No impacts to wetlands are anticipated.
- Floodplain Impacts – Several floodplains are located within the project area. No bridge alterations are currently in the project plans. Work that may occur within the floodplain would be limited to construction to impervious surfaces, such as the roadway, parking lots, or sidewalks. No significant impacts to floodplains are anticipated.
- Impacts on Water Quality, Navigable Waterways, & Coastal Zones – The project area is in Cook County, which is not located within the Mahomet Aquifer. Construction to impervious surfaces may occur. No significant impacts to water quality, navigable waterways, and coastal zones are anticipated.
- Impacts on Ecologically-Sensitive Areas and Endangered Species – The project is located along an urban, commercial, and residential area of South Halsted Street, 95th Street, and 79th Street. The US Fish and Wildlife Service’s (USFWS) Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) website did not identify any critical habitats within the project area. The USFWS Official Species List identified several listed species within the project area. Since the project is located within an urbanized area and no natural resources would be impacted, the project is not anticipated to have any impacts to any endangered or threatened species.
- Impacts on Safety and Security – The project would employ all standard safety practices required by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT). Enhanced security measures would be implemented at bus stations.
- Impacts Caused by Construction – The project would incur temporary impacts due to construction. Temporary lane closures may occur. The South Halsted Corridor is located in an urbanized area and therefore Storm Water Quality Best Management Practices (BMPs) would need to be considered. Certain areas of the project would result in soil disturbance, noise, dust, air quality, debris, and erosion impacts. All impacts would be minimized to the greatest extent possible. Construction of bus lanes, as proposed in Alternatives 2 and 3, would be expected to have more impacts than queue jumps. No alternatives are anticipated to have significant impacts.