Bridging the Next Century
An Overview of Metra Rail Engineering & Urban Bridge Projects

Mr. Lorenzini will present a general overview of Metra and the types of engineering work they perform and then provide an update on Metra's urban bridge renewal projects.

Thursday, Feb 10, 2011
3:00– 5:00 pm
Refreshments available at 2:45 pm
Location:
Transportation Center, Northwestern U.
Chambers Hall – lower level
600 Foster, Evanston, IL

Metra, Chicago's commuter rail operating agency, has replaced more urban railroad bridges than any other railroad, freight or passenger, in the United States. In addition to the usual engineering and construction components, these projects require significant interface with the public, political leaders, city staff members and the host railroads to minimize the inconvenience to the general public, Metra's riders and railroad operations. As a result Metra's executives and staff as well as its contractors and consultant have developed a significant skill base in engineering, construction and community relations. Multi-year bridge replacement projects have been completed on Metra's Rock Island District and Union Pacific's Northwest Line. A multi-year project on the UP North Line will commence in 2011. All of this work is in addition to the engineering requirements to maintain Metra's rail system. Joe Lorenzini will give a general overview of Metra's engineering work and then discuss Metra's experience in the urban bridge renewal bridge renewal projects. This is a critical part of railroading that is often overlooked by many observers.

Speaker Bio: Mr. Lorenzini is Metra's Chief Engineering Officer responsible for the building and maintenance of all of Metra's fixed assets. This includes the track, signals, structures, yards and electrical components. He oversees a yearly budget of up to $400 million and up to 700 employees. Lorenzini has been with Metra since 1984, serving first as Director of Construction and then as Asst. Chief Engineering Officer. Prior to joining Metra, Lorenzini served as a structural and project engineer with the Illinois Central Railroad from 1976 to 1984. Lorenzini holds a BS degree in Civil Engineering from the Illinois Institute of Technology and an MBA from DePaul University.