



## Argo Connections/Clearing Main Lines

### Fact Sheet

**Project Number:** B9/EW1

**Location:** Indiana Harbor Belt (IHB) mainline between 62<sup>nd</sup> Street and 71<sup>st</sup> Street and Belt Railway of Chicago (BRC) Clearing Yard from IHB/BRC connection at the intersection of 65<sup>th</sup> and 76<sup>th</sup> Avenue to the intersection of 75<sup>th</sup> and Hohman Streets in Summit, Bedford Park and Bridgeview, IL. Chicago Community Areas: Ashburn, Chicago Lawn, Clearing, and West Lawn

**Scope of Work:** Project B9 will construct a new double track connection and crossovers between the BRC and IHB/CSX line at Archer and 63rd in Summit, IL. This project will connect the CREATE Beltway and East-West Corridors. The project will upgrade mainline crossovers to accommodate higher speeds, from 10 mph to 25 mph. A *crossover* is a pair of switches that connects two parallel rail tracks, allowing a train on one track to cross over to the other. Additional crossovers will be added to the control point at 71st Street to allow access into and out of a signal-controlled siding track.

Project B9 proposes Argo Yard improvements necessary to create yard capacity lost as a result of installing the new main line crossovers. Yard work will include realignment of switching lead tracks, installation of three new yard tracks, and creating new industry lead track to avoid switching within the control point.

Project EW1 will consider constructing two new 7-mile main tracks around the south side of Clearing Yard, in Bedford Park and Chicago from Harlem Avenue to Southwest Highway. The project will install crossovers and turnouts at the CP West Subdivision and CP East End. This project will provide three new control points that include the installation of a series of crossovers.

Project EW1 includes yard improvements to offset the loss of yard capacity due to the new main lines. Yard work includes realignment of switching lead tracks, run-through tracks, tracks leading to the hump used to classify cars, and construction of additional departure yard tracks. All of this work will be within the existing railroad right-of-way.

**Daily Trains Affected:**

- 10 Amtrak trains (Lincoln and Texas Eagle Services)
- 6 Metra Heritage Corridor trains
- Freight – 56 through trains on the IHB (B9); 60 scheduled trains at Clearing Yard (EW1)

**Benefits:**

Project B9’s new double-track connection allows speeds of 25 mph and provides increased flexibility for dispatchers. Installation of additional yard tracks in Argo Yard will reduce the amount of time switching cars destined for local industry occupy the main tracks. Project B9 is located near Argo Corn Products, the largest industrial facility in the region, which handles up to 200 cars per day from three carriers (IHB, BRC, and CN). Once complete, Project B9 will allow access to the new main tracks around Clearing Yard (Project EW1) on the new East-West Corridor.

Increased freight speeds and improved fluidity on the IHB will allow trains to clear Canal Interlocking more quickly, reducing the potential for freight conflict with Amtrak and Metra and improving travel time, speed, and reliability.

Project EW1 increases speed and efficiency of through trains traversing Clearing Yard. The new main track will enable trains to travel on the new route at 25 mph along the south side of the yard. Yard capacity improvements to an interlocking at the east end of Clearing Yard will allow for multiple simultaneous train movements.

The additional capacity of this new corridor will more evenly distribute trains throughout the regional rail network and reduce the burden on the congested existing corridors (Beltway and Western Avenue). In addition, the new corridor provides critical redundancy in the regional rail network by providing a new east-west route through the region. In the event of maintenance work or service disruptions along the existing corridors, this route will allow train flows to be maintained.

Communities Benefited

- Summit
- Bedford Park
- Bridgeview
- Communities along the Metra Heritage Corridor
- Communities along the Amtrak Lincoln Service serving Joliet, Bloomington-Normal, and Springfield, IL and St. Louis, MO; Communities along the Amtrak Texas Eagle service between Chicago and San Antonio, TX.
- Cook County and Will County

**Project Status:**

<b>Phase I – NEPA – Preliminary Design (30% Design)</b>	<b>Phase II – Final PS&amp;E*</b>	<b>Phase III - Construction</b>
<i>Underway</i>		

\*Plans, Specifications & Estimates

