



**C R E A T E**

KEEPING THE GO IN CHICAGO

**GS14**

# IHB Grade Crossing of 71<sup>st</sup> Street

## Location

71<sup>st</sup> Street between Sholer Ave. and S. Octavia Ave.

Bridgeview, IL

## Daily Trains Affected

80 Freight trains

## *Scope of Work*

The project involved grade separation of four CSX and Indiana Harbor Belt rail tracks and 71<sup>st</sup> Street in the Village of Bridgeview. The location is immediately west of Toyota Park, a 20,000 seat multi-use stadium, and is used as a primary ingress/egress route to the stadium parking lots. The CSX and IHB tracks have access to the CSX intermodal facility and the Belt Railway of Chicago Clearing Yard located 1.5 miles northeast of the project.



Before

## *Benefits*

The construction of a grade separation allows continuous access to the stadium and related development, as 71<sup>st</sup> Street between Roberts Road and Harlem Avenue is designated as one of two primary access routes feeding the stadium.

Given the location and geometry of the four tracks entering the nearby Bedford Park Yard, the speeds of the freight trains crossing 71<sup>st</sup> Street ranged from five to 10 mph. These slow



After



speeds resulted in lengthy delays at 71<sup>st</sup> Street, often up to 10 minutes. During events at the stadium, nearly 1,600 vehicles use 71<sup>st</sup> Street for stadium ingress/egress.

Daily, 4,400 vehicles pass through this location, 15 percent of which are trucks. Total daily vehicle delay prior to the project was estimated at 31 hours. The grade separation eliminated delays for vehicles at this crossing.

Within the study area, from 2004 to 2006, 24 highway crashes occurred. Ten of the crashes were attributed to malfunctioning railroad automatic gates. A majority of the crashes were a result of railroad gate closures. The grade separation eliminates the potential for future rail-auto crashes and those attributed to lengthy queues at the crossing.

**Communities Benefited:**

- Bridgeview, IL

## *Project Status*

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**Project Completed November 2013**

