

Argo Connections

June 2022

SCOPE OF WORK

Project B9 will construct a new double track connection and crossovers between the Belt Railway Company of Chicago (BRC) and Indiana Harbor Belt (IHB) Railroad/CSX line at Archer and 63rd in Summit, IL. This project will connect the CREATE Beltway and East-West Corridors and 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 includes Argo Yard improvements necessary to create yard capacity that is 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.

BENEFITS

Project B9's new double-track connection will allow an increased speed of 25 mph and provides increased flexibility for dispatchers. Installation of additional yard tracks in Argo Yard will reduce the amount of time required for locally bound switching cars to occupy the track. This project is located near Ingredion, Inc. (formerly Argo Corn Products), the largest industrial facility in the region, which handles up to 200 cars per day from three carriers (IHB, BRC, and Canadian National (CN)). Once complete, this project 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 trains and improving travel time, speed, and reliability.

PROJECT PHOTOS



Location

Indiana Harbor Belt (IHB) mainline between 87th Street and Interstate 55 (Stevenson Expressway) in Chicago, Summit, Bedford Park and Bridgeview, IL

Daily Trains Affected

7 Metra Trains
(Heritage Corridor)

10 Amtrak Trains
(Lincoln and Texas Eagle Services)

Communities Benefited

Summit, IL

Bedford Park, IL

Bridgeview, IL

Cook County

Communities along the
Metra Heritage Corridor

Communities along the
Amtrak Lincoln Service serving
Joliet, Bloomington-Normal,
Springfield, IL, and St. Louis, MO;
Communities along the Amtrak
Texas Eagle Service between
Chicago and San Antonio, TX

Chicago Community Areas:
Ashburn, Chicago Lawn, Clearing,
and West Lawn

PROJECT STATUS

Phase I NEPA – Preliminary Design	Phase II Final Plans, Specifications and Estimates	Phase III Construction
Complete	Complete	Complete

In 2018, the U.S. Department of Transportation awarded \$132 million to the CREATE partners through the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant program for project B9 and the 75th Street Corridor Improvement Project (75th Street CIP). The federal investment combined with state, local and private money funded the construction of B9. This grant also secured funding for the 75th Street CIP’s final design and partial construction. These two projects comprise a network of inter-related infrastructure improvements that will reduce travel time and expand railroad capacity through the Terminal, resulting in a doubling of corridor capacity and operational benefits that extend beyond the region to a national scale.

PROJECT LOCATION MAP

