BRC and NS Signalization

SCOPE OF WORK
This project upgraded the Belt Railway Company of Chicago (BRC) and Norfolk Southern (NS) signal systems to power switches and signals and connected the two systems. Minor track realignment and grading were also performed.

BENEFITS
This improvement has allowed train speeds to double, increasing from 10 to 20 miles per hour. The bottleneck at this location is now significantly alleviated as this segment can handle twice the number of trains, increasing from 23 to 46 freight trains per day. Amtrak trains running on the NS Chicago Subdivision are benefited by freight trains leaving the NS Chicago mainline to enter the BRC mainline at higher speeds, reducing the potential for conflict.

Location
Near the intersection of 95th Street and Commercial Street to the Calumet River
Chicago, IL

Daily Trains Affected
78 Freight Trains
14 Amtrak Trains
(Serving states to the East)

Communities Benefited
Chicago Community Areas: Calumet Heights, East Side, South Chicago, and South Deering

PROJECT PHOTOS

Norfolk Southern main tracks looking west

86th Street and the Chicago Skyway signal looking east toward the Calumet River double-tracked lift bridge/BRC connection.
PROJECT STATUS

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PROJECT LOCATION MAP