

65th & Harlem Avenue & Belt Railway of Chicago Grade Separation

February 2024

SCOPE OF WORK

The project will eliminate the at-grade crossing of 65th Street and two Belt Railway of Chicago (BRC) tracks located approximately 100 feet east of Harlem Avenue. This will be accomplished by creating an overpass for vehicles using 65th Street at this location. Additional traffic safety improvements will also be made to the nearby intersection of 63rd Street and Harlem Avenue, where the same railroad tracks cross 63rd Street approximately 300 feet east of the intersection.

BENEFITS

Approximately 9,850 vehicles and 185 CTA and Pace buses (#165, #307 and #386) pass through the 65th Street crossing daily, which is on a state-designated truck route. An additional 17,500 vehicles pass through the adjacent intersection on Harlem Avenue at 63rd Street. These grade crossings are located near BRC's Clearing yard, one of the busiest in the City of Chicago. Currently, trains traveling to and from the yard are required to move at very slow speeds (10-25 mph).

This project will reduce roadway congestion and improve safety at this location. The 65th Street grade crossing separation will eliminate delay to over 1,100 vehicles daily, alleviating 644 daily motorist hours of delay. The improvement will also eliminate the potential for collisions between vehicles and trains.

The crossing at 63rd Street is designated a "911 Critical Crossing." This is a critical location for emergency services to access communities that have a high frequency of train movements or delays. The grade separation at 65th Street and additional safety improvements at 63rd Street will improve emergency responder travel times throughout the area.

Location

65th Street and 63rd Street at
Harlem Avenue (IL-43)
Chicago, Bedford Park, and
Summit, IL

Daily Trains Affected

33 Freight Trains

Communities Benefited

Chicago –
Clearing community area
Bedford Park, IL
Summit, IL
Garfield Ridge, IL

PROJECT PHOTO



PROJECT STATUS

Phase I NEPA – Preliminary Design	Phase II Final Plans, Specifications and Estimates	Phase III Construction
Completed	Underway	Not started

PROJECT LOCATION MAP

