

# Indiana Harbor Belt Grade Crossing of 71<sup>st</sup> Street

*January 2022*

## SCOPE OF WORK

This project built an underpass to provide a grade separation of the roadway from the rail line at 71<sup>st</sup> Street from four CSX and Indiana Harbor Belt (IHB) rail tracks 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's parking lots. During events at the stadium, nearly 1,600 vehicles use 71<sup>st</sup> Street for stadium ingress/egress.

Additionally, 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. Due to the location and geometry of the four tracks entering the nearby Bedford Park Yard, speeds of freight trains crossing 71<sup>st</sup> Street ranged from 5 to 10 mph before the grade separation was built. These slow speeds resulted in lengthy delays at 71<sup>st</sup> Street, often up to 10 minutes.

## BENEFITS

The grade separation now allows for 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. Approximately 4,400 vehicles pass through this location daily, 15 percent of which are trucks. The grade separation eliminated a daily total vehicle delay estimated at 31 hours.

From 2004 to 2006, 24 highway crashes occurred within the study area, ten (10) of which were attributed to malfunctioning railroad automatic gates. A majority of the remaining crashes were a result of railroad gate closures. The grade separation eliminated the potential for future rail-auto crashes and those attributed to lengthy queues at the crossing.

### Location

71<sup>st</sup> Street between Sholer Avenue and S. Octavia Avenue  
Bridgeview, IL

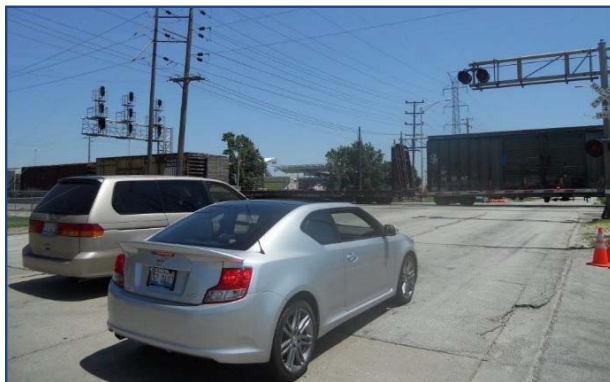
### Daily Trains Affected

80 Freight Trains

### Communities Benefited

Bridgeview, IL

## PROJECT PHOTOS



Before



After

## PROJECT LOCATION MAP

A map of the intersection of W 71st St and S Harlem Ave. The intersection is highlighted with a green rectangle. A red pin icon is placed at the intersection, and a green circle with a white 'H' icon is placed just south of the intersection. The label 'GS14' is placed next to the green circle. The map shows surrounding streets including W 70th St, W 72nd St, W 73rd St, S Harlem Ave, S Octavia Ave, S Dakota Ave, Thomas Ave, Beaufort Ave, Ferdinand Ave, S 78th Ave, and S 79th Ave. The map also shows a large orange area to the east of the intersection, possibly a park or a large lot.