

Harlem Avenue and BNSF Grade Separation

June 2022

SCOPE OF WORK

The project will consider eliminating one or more at-grade crossings in the vicinity of Harlem Avenue and the three BNSF Railway tracks. This would be accomplished by creating either an overpass or underpass for vehicles. In addition to freight rail, Metra and Amtrak operate intercity and commuter rail service on these tracks. The BNSF service is Metra's most heavily used line.

BENEFITS

Over 27,000 vehicles and Pace bus lines #302 and #307 pass through the crossing daily. Harlem Avenue (IL-43) is a primary arterial roadway, and this project will reduce roadway congestion and improve safety at this location. The grade crossing separation would alleviate over 188,000 annual motorist hours of delay and significantly improve travel time reliability. Currently motorists must plan for trip times to more than double during some parts of the day. The project will also eliminate the potential for collisions between vehicles and trains. Since this is also proximate to a Metra commuter station, it will improve mobility and safety for commuter access to and from the station, both pedestrian and vehicular." This language incorporates new delay hour estimates from CMAP.

PROJECT PHOTOS



Existing conditions



Location

Harlem Avenue
between 32nd and 35th Street
Berwyn, IL
Riverside, IL

Daily Trains Affected

40 Freight Trains
94 Metra Trains
6 Amtrak Trains

Communities Benefited

Berwyn, IL
Riverside, IL

PROJECT STATUS

Phase I NEPA – Preliminary Design	Phase II Final Plans, Specifications and Estimates	Phase III Construction
Currently in feasibility study; Phase I to follow pending funding availability.”	Not started	Not started

STUDY AREA MAP

