

# Blue Island Junction

January 2023

## SCOPE OF WORK

This project installed a series of crossovers between the CSX Blue Island and Elsdon Subdivisions and new signals at Blue Island Junction to facilitate bidirectional movements. 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.

This project also made associated signal improvements, including installing new traffic control signals on both CSX lines. All of this work was performed within the existing railroad right-of-way.

## BENEFITS

Previously, CSX had double-track main lines running roughly parallel through the Blue Island Junction with no connection between them. The absence of a connection between the two CSX tracks at this location severely limited the possible routes traversing the Blue Island Junction. This junction is a major regional intersection where the Indiana Harbor Belt and CSX corridors connect, and the Belt and Western Avenue Corridors cross. These new crossovers provide direct routes for trains to switch between the tracks in both directions at Blue Island Junction. Previously, to transfer trains from Barr Yard to Clearing Yard, trains had to take a circuitous route. The completed improvements provide CSX a new, more direct route from CSX trackage to the BRC line. With the new connection completed by project WA10, two to three hours of transfer time for trains moving between Barr and Clearing Yards has been eliminated for three CSX trains per day. The completed project also enhances the capability to move intermodal trains to the Bedford Park Yard because it completes a new route, which did not exist previously. The improvements have enabled 8 to 10 intermodal trains per day to reach to Bedford Park more quickly. The project also removed traffic from the congested Belt and Western Avenue Corridors.

## Location

Along a 2-mile corridor north of  
Broadway Street across the  
Little Calumet River, and west  
of Western Avenue  
Blue Island, IL

## Daily Trains Affected

33 Freight Trains

## Communities Benefited

Blue Island, IL  
West Elsdon Neighborhood  
Chicago, IL

## PROJECT PHOTO



Installing new track along the Blue Island Subdivision near the IHB junction

## PROJECT STATUS

<b>Phase I</b> NEPA – Preliminary Design	<b>Phase II</b> Final Plans, Specifications and Estimates	<b>Phase III</b> Construction
Completed	Completed	Completed September 2013

## PROJECT LOCATION MAP

