

BNSF Connection – Western Avenue to Ash Street

January 2023

SCOPE OF WORK

This project constructed a new track from 31st and California Avenue on the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) Chillicothe Subdivision along Western Avenue to 21st Street and California on the BNSF Chicago Subdivision. Six bridges were rehabilitated over city streets and over the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal. Crossover switches between the BNSF Chillicothe Subdivision and the Canadian National (CN) Freeport Subdivision were installed. Crossovers between the new track and CSX Blue Island Subdivision were also installed. Centralized traffic control signalization was installed over the length of the project.

BENEFITS

Previously, a direct connection did not exist between the BNSF Chicago and BNSF Chillicothe Subdivisions. This project constructed a new direct connection to allow movements between BNSF's Corwith and Cicero Yards, eliminating the safety and delay issues of long reverse moves that previously took place. This project also built new connections between the CN Freeport Subdivision and the CREATE Western Avenue Corridor.

PROJECT PHOTO



Completed track work near the Eight Track Scissors Bridge facing north

Location

From California Avenue to Western Avenue, and 21st Street to 35th Street

Chicago, IL

Daily Trains Affected

22 Freight Trains
(Expected Usage)

Communities Benefited

Chicago Community Areas:
Douglas Park, South Lawndale,
Little Village, and Brighton Park

PROJECT STATUS

Phase I NEPA – Preliminary Design	Phase II Final Plans, Specifications and Estimates	Phase III Construction
Completed	Completed	Completed April 2019

PROJECT LOCATION MAP

