



C R E A T E

KEEPING THE GO IN CHICAGO

B15

Signalization of Blue Island Yard Running Tracks

Location

Between the control points on either side of Blue Island Yard. Between the intersection of Western Ave. and 140th Street in Blue Island, IL and the intersection of 140th St. and Indiana Ave.

Dolton, IL

Daily Trains Affected

54 Freight Trains – 40 inbound and outbound, in addition to 14 freight trains that bypass the yard (CSX, NS, BNSF, Iowa Interstate)

2 Amtrak trains (Cardinal/Hoosier State)

Scope of Work

A new bi-directional computerized Traffic Control System (TCS) was installed on a three-mile segment of Indiana Harbor Belt (IHB) mainline track along the north side of Blue Island Yard. Two new control points were added, including installation of a series of crossovers at CP School Street and a turnout at CP Ashland. Additional crossovers were added to CP Harvey. The project also included the installation of electric lock switches and the replacement of approximately five hand-thrown switches with power operated switches.

Benefits

The improvements have enabled train speeds to increase in the area from 15 mph to 30 mph. Now trains can pass through this segment in as little as six minutes. Previously trains experienced 15 to 30 minutes of delay for every hand-operated switch navigated as well as delays



New Signal Bridge

waiting for other trains to navigate the project limits with manual switches. Most trains used to spend up to one hour to traverse the limits of this project.

Increased freight speeds and improved fluidity on the IHB allow trains to clear Dolton Interlocking more quickly, reducing the potential for freight conflict with Amtrak and improving travel time, speed, and reliability.

Communities Benefited:

- Blue Island, Riverdale, and Dolton, IL

Project Status

Project Completed September 2012

