CREATE

KEEPING THE GO IN CHICAGO

B9/EW1

Argo Connections/Clearing Main Lines

Location

Indiana Harbor Belt (IHB) mainline between 87th Street and Interstate 55 (Stevenson Expressway); and Belt Railway of Chicago (BRC) Clearing Yard from IHB/BRC connection at the intersection of 65th and 76th Avenue to the intersection of 75th and St. Louis Avenue in Chicago, Summit, Bedford Park and Bridgeview, IL.

Chicago Community Areas: Ashburn, Chicago Lawn, Clearing, and West Lawn.

Daily Trains Affected

116 freight trains – 56 through trains on the IHB (B9); 60 scheduled trains at Clearing Yard (EW1)

6 Metra trains (Heritage Corridor)

10 Amtrak trains (Lincoln and Texas Eagle Services)

Scope of Work

Project B9 will construct a new double track connection and crossovers between the BRC and IHB/CSX line at Archer and 63rd in Summit, IL. This project will connect the CREATE Beltway and East-West Corridors. The project will upgrade mainline crossovers to accommodate higher speeds, from 10 mph to 25 mph. 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. Additional crossovers will be added to the control point at 71st Street to allow access into and out of a signal-controlled siding track.

Project B9 includes Argo Yard improvements necessary to create yard capacity lost as a result of installing the new main line crossovers. Yard work will include realignment of switching lead tracks, installation of three new yard tracks, and creating new industry lead track to avoid switching within the control point.

Project EW1 will construct two new 4.8-mile main tracks around the south side of Clearing Yard, in Bedford Park and Chicago between Harlem Avenue and St. Louis Avenue in Chicago. The project will install crossovers and turnouts at the CP West Subdivision, CP Central and CP East End. This project will provide three new control points that include the installation of a series of crossovers.

Project EW1 includes yard improvements to offset the loss of yard capacity due to the new main lines. Yard work includes realignment of switching lead tracks, run-though tracks, tracks leading to

the hump used to classify cars, and construction of additional departure yard tracks. All of this work will be within the existing railroad right-of-way.

Benefits

Project B9's new double-track connection will allow speeds of 25 mph and provides increased flexibility for dispatchers. Installation of additional yard tracks in Argo Yard will reduce the amount of time switching cars destined for local industry occupy the main tracks. Project B9 is located near Ingredion, Inc. (formerly Argo Corn Products), the largest industrial facility in the region, which handles up to 200 cars per day from three carriers (IHB, BRC, and CN). Once complete, Project B9 will allow access to the new main tracks around Clearing Yard (Project EW1) on the new East-West Corridor.

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

Project EW1 will increase speed and efficiency of through trains traversing Clearing Yard. The new main track will enable trains to travel on the new route at 25 mph along the south side of the yard. Yard capacity improvements to an interlocking at the east end of Clearing Yard will allow for multiple simultaneous train movements.

The additional capacity of this new corridor will more evenly distribute trains throughout the regional rail network and reduce the burden on the congested existing corridors (Beltway and Western Avenue). In addition, the new corridor provides critical redundancy in the regional rail network by providing a new east-west route through the region. In the event of maintenance work or service disruptions along the existing corridors, this route will allow freight train flows to be maintained.

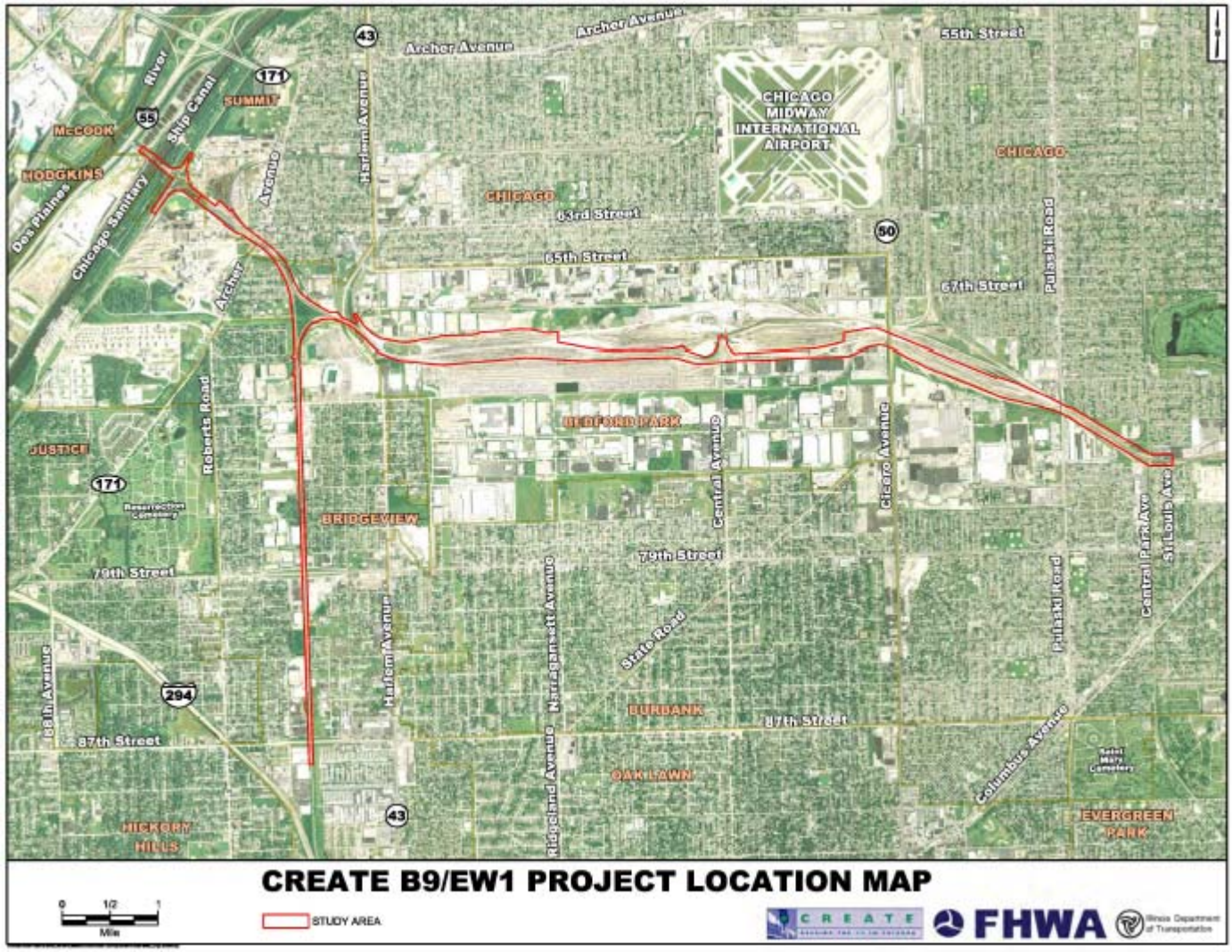
Communities Benefited:

- Summit
- Bedford Park
- Bridgeview
- Cook County
- Communities along the Metra Heritage Corridor
- Communities along the Amtrak Lincoln Service serving Joliet, Bloomington-Normal, Springfield, IL, and St. Louis, MO; Communities along the Amtrak Texas Eagle Service between Chicago and San Antonio, TX

Project Status

Phase I – NEPA – Preliminary Design (30% Design)	Phase II – Final PS&E*	Phase III - Construction
Complete	Underway	

Project Location Map



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