Corwith Tower Upgrade

Location
North of BNSF’s Corwith Yard, near 36th Street and South Central Park Avenue
Chicago, IL

Daily Trains Affected
50 Freight trains (BNSF, CN, NS, CSX)
6 Metra trains (Heritage Corridor)
10 Amtrak trains (Texas Eagle and Lincoln Service)

Scope of Work
Installed new signal system at the west end of BNSF’s Corwith Yard, which included automation and remote control of Corwith Tower. Upgraded track and signals and reconfigured the Corwith Interlocking where the BNSF Chillicothe Subdivision and CN Joliet Subdivision/Metra Heritage Corridor rail lines cross.

Benefits
The new signal system that replaced Corwith Tower provides significant benefits to trains moving in and out of BNSF’s Corwith Yard. The yard is located at the easternmost point for BNSF’s transcontinental route from Los Angeles to Chicago, the busiest intermodal route in the nation. The improved signals, upgraded track, and reconfigured Corwith Interlocking increase fluidity and reliability in and out of the yard. The improvements have improved switch reliability, which was a particular issue during cold weather, and which also improves Amtrak and Metra reliability on the adjacent Heritage Corridor.

New Signal Bridge near Corwith Yard
Communities Benefited:

- Chicago Community Areas: Brighton Park, North Lawndale, South Lawndale

Project Status

Project Completed June 2009