

Required Section 1554 Posting
CREATE Project B4B5
August 20, 2010

Description of the CREATE B4B5 Project

The purpose of the CREATE B4B5 project is to improve the flow of rail traffic, increase average train speeds and increase corridor capacity between Control Point (CP) La Grange and CP Hill on the CREATE Beltway Corridor and on lines which cross and connect with that corridor. In the project area, the Beltway Corridor is operated by the Indiana Harbor Belt Railroad Company (IHB).

The scope of the project is to install Traffic Control System (TCS) signaling on Tracks 1, 2 and 21 between CP La Grange in the Village of La Grange, and CP Hill in the Village of Bellwood. In addition, the project will include upgrading of Track 21 from a running track to a main track, increasing the speed limit on that track from restricted speed (up to 20mph depending on operating conditions), to 30mph. It will also create a new CP Broadview, where universal crossovers will be installed.

Justification for using railroad forces for B4B5 work

Railroad forces are being used to perform the work involved in the B4B5 project. The reasons are outlined below.

The IHB is a unionized organization, whose employees from a variety of crafts are covered by various collective bargaining agreements.

Per current collective bargaining agreements, all track work on the IHB is required to be done by IHB employees covered by the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees. In addition, all signal work is required to be done by IHB employees covered by the Brotherhood of Railroad Signalman.

Since bidding out the work would be in violation of existing collective bargaining agreements, IDOT and FHWA have approved this work being progressed under Force Account agreements between IDOT and the IHB.