

Project Overview

For:

Chicago Transit Authority



Project Description:

Adesta constructed a 17.5 mile duct and dark fiber network along the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) Blue Line O'Hare Branch right-of-way. The CTA's network provides communications access between the Central Business District and O'Hare International Airport. The CTA system is also interconnected with Illinois State Toll Highway Authority (ISTHA) fiber optic system which provides access to the growing business corridors in suburban Chicago as well as Indiana and Wisconsin.

Key Points:

The fiber network Adesta provided substantially replaces the existing copper-based network and allows the CTA to maximize its plans for another century of public transportation service. Everything from boosting public safety to adding state-of-the-art passenger conveniences can be addressed with the new technology.

Comments:

There were many challenges to overcome during construction of the CTA's communications network. The Blue Line is a vital transit corridor in the Chicago area and it simply can not be shut down to accommodate construction. In order to minimize impact to CTA operations and the public, work was completed during 52-hour, single-track closures on weekends. Such limited time on the tracks provided little room for error and only highlighted the importance of scheduling and coordination.

Safety was also of paramount concern to Adesta and the CTA. Working on any railway line presents challenges and the CTA Blue Line was no exception. The most obvious hazard is the electrified "third rail". Adesta also had to coordinate work in a subway, along elevated lines and along tracks located in the middle of the Kennedy Expressway. Despite working in such varied conditions, Adesta's award-winning safety program was up to the test. The project was completed without accident or injury.



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