

Massive Rail Yard Modernization Underway in Tennessee

It is not easy to increase the capacity and efficiency of something as massive and complex as its second busiest railroad yard, but that is what the Canadian National Railroad (CNR) is doing by expanding and reconfiguring its 228-acre Johnston Yard south of Memphis. CNR selected HDR of Chicago to design this challenging \$100,000,000 assignment with Buchart Horn serving as HDR's local engineering team member.

In a critical initial project phase, Buchart Horn, in five months, fast-tracked design and obtained environmental clearances and all permits for a half-mile realignment of Rivergate Road, including relocating all utilities such as a 96-inch sewer and jet fuel lines. The firm worked closely with the Tennessee Department of Transportation, the City of Memphis, and three utility companies to successfully avoid winter construction delays.

Engineers from Buchart Horn also designed compressed air systems to charge train brakes, prepared stormwater management plans and permits, and conducted code compliance reviews. In addition, the project team coordinated federal approvals for work in a levee near the Mississippi River.

