



# A CORRIDOR OF CONTRACT WORK

*From new-track construction to turnout assembly and installation, RailWorks completes a year's worth of projects along CSX Transportation's Chicago-to-Florida corridor*

It's been a busy year for CSX Transportation and contractor partner, RailWorks Corp., which in late November was wrapping up more than \$25 million worth of work along the Class I's busy Chicago-to-Florida corridor. The work is part of CSXT's plan to spend as much as \$1.4 billion annually in 2006 and 2007 to improve service and reliability — and, accordingly, boost capacity over its 21,000-mile network.

During the past year, RailWorks has added 120,000 feet of new track and 25 turnouts at 13 sidings in Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky and Tennessee. Performed under daily train operating conditions, the work included: roadbed, bridge and new-track construction; track rehabilitation; turnout assembly and installation; and track-laying machinery support.

"RailWorks is particularly well-equipped to complete projects of this magnitude and complexity," says Brian Bennett, RailWorks vice president of operations, who managed the CSXT projects. "We offer extensive track construction expertise, a large equipment

fleet and the ability to rapidly mobilize crews from Atlanta, St. Louis, Frankfort, Indiana, Chicago, and other RailWorks track locations as needed."

## A TURNOUT TO REMEMBER

Not that the projects haven't presented challenges. Witness the turnout installations: RailWorks was required to complete the work within six-hour work windows so trains could continue moving on the mainline. Close coordination with CSXT project management and train operations officials enabled the railroad to operate trains while the work progressed, says Bennett, who's based in Bridgeton, Mo.

Of the 13 projects, one in particular stood out for Bennett. In December 2005, RailWorks crews began extending an existing one-mile siding an additional three miles, as well as assembling and installing two concrete turnouts and two universal crossovers, in the central Georgia town of Lilly.

"It was the first mainline track project

where RailWorks — or to my knowledge any other contractor — installed two #20 turnouts simultaneously within one six-hour track outage," Bennett says. "It also involved a significant mainline-to-siding track shift during a six-hour track curfew."

Several weeks before the construction was slated to begin, a subcontractor prepared the roadbed while another built a 192-foot retaining wall to support the widened double-track roadbed and ensure proper drainage. Another subcontractor then jacked and bored a 72-inch steel casing-pipe under the railroad for utilities.

## A COORDINATED EFFORT

RailWorks then turned to Harsco Track Technologies' P811, a multi-tasking track renewal machine that was used to remove wood cross-ties on the existing siding and replace them with KSA concrete ties in a single continuous pass. Harsco's track-laying machine completed the rail-laying work; RailWorks crews followed behind, completing the spiking, balancing, surfacing and tamping work, and ensuring the rail was properly placed.

"With close coordination between Harsco, RailWorks and CSXT, this work was successfully completed on schedule in multiple work windows, which minimized any disruption to mainline train service," Bennett says.

For the near term, freight roads will continue to attempt to boost rail network capacity. And RailWorks execs expect to continue helping them achieve their expansion goals.

"We have been awarded two more [CSXT] projects recently, and even completed one of them 'fast-track' in October, which they are very happy with," Bennett says. "And we're continuing to pursue other projects as they are solicited for bid." **PR**

—By Robert J. Derocher



RailWorks Corp.

**Since December 2005, RailWorks Corp. has added 120,000 feet of track and 25 turnouts along CSX Transportation's Chicago-to-Florida corridor. The work included: roadbed, bridge and track construction; track rehabilitation; turnout assembly and installation; and track-laying machinery support.**