High Iron Simulations

Realistic Contemporary and Historical Scenarios for Train Simulator

Chicago Racetrack

Scenario Pack 01







About High Iron Simulations

We began serving the Train Simulator community in October 2012 by developing and publishing free Train Simulator scenarios to Steam Workshop — and we're pleased to now offer more than 300 Steam Workshop scenarios.

As a Train Simulator Partner Programme member, we collaborate with Dovetail Games to produce a wide variety of realistic scenario packs for Train Simulator routes.

The Chicago Racetrack

Chicago, Illinois is “America’s Railroad Capital,” and among the numerous rail routes extending from “the Windy City,” few if any are more famous or vibrant that the “racetrack” that extends west from Chicago Union Station to Aurora, Illinois, a distance of 38.4 miles.

Wonderfully re-created with the Train Simulator “The Racetrack: Aurora – Chicago Route,” the legendary line is a bustling conveyor of freight, intercity passenger, and commuter operations conducted by BNSF, Amtrak, and the area’s Regional Transportation Authority (Metra).

Long a property of the Burlington Route (CB&Q), the racetrack became part of Burlington Northern in 1970 and then a component of BNSF in 1995. Today, the line is the Chicago Subdivision of BNSF and is renowned for its constant flow of trains and its three-track main line.

The racetrack is home to multiple important rail yards and interchange points. The Hill Yard, adjacent to the Aurora Transportation Center, is used to hold and service commuter consists. Eola Yard, east of Aurora, supports BNSF freight operations. The BNSF’s expansive intermodal yard in Cicero is the primary facility serving intermodal traffic moving between Chicago to the Pacific Northwest. Nearby to Cicero is BNSF’s freight yard at Western Avenue. And on the approach to Chicago Union Station, in the 14th Street area, are Amtrak and commuter yards and maintenance facilities.

Key interchange points with other railroads along the route include Eola, Congress Park, Cicero, Western Avenue, and 21st Street in Chicago. Because of its many interchange points, the racetrack regularly hosts run-through motive power and freight movements of other railroads, including those of Norfolk Southern, CSX, and Canadian National.

The racetrack serves as Chicago’s “BNSF Railway” commuter line and daily hosts four Amtrak intercity trains: the long-distance California Zephyr and Southwest Chief, and the regional Illinois Zephyr and Carl Sandburg.

The Scenarios

Chicago Racetrack Scenario Pack 01 includes 10 career scenarios based on freight, passenger, and commuter operations on Train Simulator’s The Racetrack: Aurora – Chicago Route. Featured are BNSF freight, Amtrak intercity passenger, and Chicago-area commuter operations.

Career scenario scoring for passenger and commuter services is based upon points (up to 1,000) achieved for meeting timetable expectations; scoring for freight operations is based upon points deductions (starting from 1,000) for any operating errors.

All scenarios require Train Simulator and The Racetrack: Aurora – Chicago Route Add-On. Select scenarios also require (for equipment) the Marias Pass Route Add-On; Miami – West Palm Beach Route Add-On; Norfolk Southern Coal District Route Add-On; and/or Amtrak Dash 8-32BWH Loco Add-On, as specified in the individual scenario descriptions (pages 3-6).

Train Simulator and all required products are available at the Steam Store: http://store.steampowered.com

Our additional scenario packs are also available at the Steam Store: http://store.steampowered.com

For Train Simulator and scenario product support, visit: http://dovetailgames.kayako.com/

Chicago Racetrack Scenario Pack 01

[RT 1.01] BNSF Z-CHCPTL



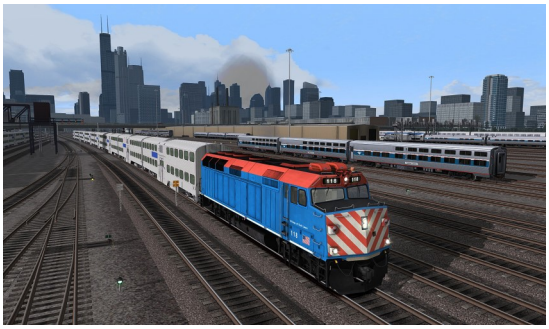
Among the many captivating aspects of the famed racetrack is its role of hosting BNSF's hottest intermodal trains operating between Chicago and the Pacific Northwest. You are the engineer of priority intermodal Z-CHCPTL (Chicago-Portland) preparing to depart the Ogden side of massive Cicero Yard with a trio of BNSF GE ES44DCs as power.

Duration: Approximately 50 minutes.

Featured: BNSF GE ES44DC.

Requirements: The Racetrack: Aurora – Chicago Route Add-On; Marias Pass Route Add-On; Miami – West Palm Beach Route Add-On; Amtrak Dash 8-32BWH Loco Add-On.

[RT 1.02] CHICAGO COMMUTER 1271



An evening rush-hour semi-express, Train 1271 departs Chicago Union Station at 5:32 p.m. and hustles west to Hinsdale for its first stop. Four more intermediate stops follow before the train terminates at the Aurora Transportation Center. You are the engineer of Train 1271 and, with an EMD F40PH as power, you have an 8-car bi-level consist.

Duration: Approximately 55 minutes.

Featured: Chicago Commuter EMD F40PH and bi-level equipment.

Requirements: The Racetrack: Aurora – Chicago Route Add-On; Marias Pass Route Add-On; Miami – West Palm Beach Route Add-On; Norfolk Southern Coal District Route Add-On; Amtrak Dash 8-32BWH Loco Add-On.

[RT 1.03] BNSF M-EOLBRC



BNSF freight M-EOLBRC operates between Eola Yard and the Belt Railway of Chicago's Clearing Yard. You are the engineer of M-EOLBRC, ready to depart Eola on a rainy morning and make your way east to the connection with the BRC in Hawthorne. En route you have pick-ups at Naperville. As is typical for M-EOLBRC, your power is a set of BNSF EMD GP38-2s.

Duration: Approximately 70 minutes.

Featured: BNSF EMD GP38-2.

Requirements: The Racetrack: Aurora – Chicago Route Add-On; Marias Pass Route Add-On; Miami – West Palm Beach Route Add-On; Norfolk Southern Coal District Route Add-On.

.

Chicago Racetrack Scenario Pack 01

[RT 1.04] AMTRAK SOUTHWEST CHIEF



A highlight of racetrack operations occurs as Amtrak's California Zephyr and Southwest Chief both arrive from the west within minutes of each other. On a miserable winter day with a mix of rain, sleet, and snow falling, you are the engineer of Amtrak Train 4 – the eastbound Southwest Chief – and as the scenario begins you have encountered a brief delay at Montgomery.

Duration: Approximately 55 minutes.

Featured: Amtrak GE B32BWH-8 and Superliner equipment.

Requirements: The Racetrack: Aurora – Chicago Route Add-On; Marias Pass Route Add-On; Miami – West Palm Beach Route Add-On; Norfolk Southern Coal District Route Add-On; Amtrak Dash 8-32BWH Loco Add-On.

[RT 1.05] BNSF R-CHI845



You have been called on a wintry night as engineer for BNSF local freight R-CHI845 which makes a nocturnal run from Eola Yard over the West Chicago Branch. With a duo of BNSF Electro-Motive GP38-2s as power, you'll be delivering cars to West Chicago Yard and making set-outs and pick-ups along the way. Your call time is 11:00 p.m.

Duration: Approximately 80 minutes.

Featured: BNSF EMD GP38-2.

Requirements: The Racetrack: Aurora – Chicago Route Add-On; Marias Pass Route Add-On.

[RT 1.06] BNSF M-NSINTW



BNSF freight operations on the racetrack often host run-through motive power and trains from the eastern roads. BNSF manifest M-NSINTW originates on the Norfolk Southern and is handed off to BNSF in Chicago for a run to Northtown Yard in St. Paul, Minnesota. The crew change point for M-NSINTW is frequently Western Avenue Yard, and you have been called as engineer for the run. Your power is a trio of GE's with Norfolk Southern ES44AC 8053 on the point.

Duration: Approximately 55 minutes.

Featured: Norfolk Southern GE ES44AC.

Requirements: The Racetrack: Aurora – Chicago Route Add-On; Marias Pass Route Add-On; Miami – West Palm Beach Route Add-On; Norfolk Southern Coal District Route Add-On; Amtrak Dash 8-32BWH Loco Add -On.

Chicago Racetrack Scenario Pack 01



[RT 1.07] CHICAGO COMMUTER 1374

Most commuter trains on the racetrack operate between Chicago Union Station and Aurora, but during peak times the railroad employs “flip backs” which run over portions of the line to match demand at intermediate stations. Such is the case with Train 1374 which originates at Highlands at 7:14 a.m., for the morning rush to Chicago. Aboard a bi-level cab car, you are the engineer of semi-express Train 1374 and have seven intermediate stops en route to Union Station.

Duration: Approximately 45 minutes.

Featured: Chicago Commuter bi-level cab car and EMD F40PH.

Requirements: The Racetrack: Aurora – Chicago Route Add-On; Marias Pass Route Add-On; Miami – West Palm Beach Route Add-On; Amtrak Dash 8-32BWH Loco Add-On.



[[RT 1.08] BNSF TRANSFER RUN

You have been called as engineer for a transfer run from the Ogden side of BNSF’s sprawling Cicero Yard, first delivering a cut of cars to BNSF’s Western Avenue Yard, then making your way toward Norfolk Southern’s 47th Street intermodal terminal with a string of hot piggyback flats. Your motive power – a pair of BNSF EMD GP38-2s – awaits at the Cicero engine terminal.

Duration: Approximately 45 minutes.

Featured: BNSF EMD GP38-2.

Requirements: The Racetrack: Aurora – Chicago Route Add-On; Marias Pass Route Add-On



[RT 1.09] AMTRAK 14TH STREET DUTY

Amtrak’s 14th Street Yard is a key hub of Chicago passenger operations. You are an Amtrak engineer at 14th Street, working aboard a GE Dash 8-32BWH in switching service. Your next assignments include spotting a locomotive at the diesel shop, pulling together the consist of the Lake Shore Limited, and moving deadhead consists of regional trains to and from Union Station.

Duration: Approximately 40 minutes.

Featured: Amtrak GE B32BWH-8.

Requirements: The Racetrack: Aurora – Chicago Route Add-On; Miami – West Palm Beach Route Add-On; Amtrak Dash 8-32BWH Loco Add-On.

Chicago Racetrack
Scenario Pack 01



[RT 1.10] BNSF U-MNUCXA

BNSF U-MNUCXA is a unit oil train which originates in the west's Bakken oil fields and, via BNSF and CSX, makes its way to a refinery in Virginia. You are the engineer of the U-MNUCXA awaiting signal clearance at Aurora and, as is frequently the case, today's oil train is powered by a mix of CSX and BNSF GE power.

Duration: Approximately 50 minutes.

Featured: CSX GE Dash 8-40CW.

Requirements: The Racetrack: Aurora – Chicago Route Add-On; Marias Pass Route Add-On; Miami – West Palm Beach Route Add-On; Norfolk Southern Coal District Route Add-On; Amtrak Dash 8-32BWH Loco Add-On.

Acknowledgements and Credits

For cooperation and support in developing this scenario pack, our thanks are extended to:

- Joseph Barnes and Chicago & Southwest Productions
- Simon Sauntson, Third Party Partner Manager, Dovetail Games
- David Walker and Aimee Preston, Third Party Support, Dovetail Games
- Stephen Dark, Product Experience Manager, Dovetail Games
- Members of the Train Simulator beta test team and Dovetail Games QA department

Gary Dolzall authored the scenarios included in this pack.

© 2019 High Iron Simulations.



High Iron Simulations

Realistic Contemporary and Historical Scenarios for Train Simulator