PATH is advancing its initiative to provide direct rail-link service connecting Newark Penn Station to Newark Liberty International Airport’s AirTrain Rail Link Station. The new line, consisting of two tracks, will extend 2.4 miles south from an elevated viaduct, which currently ends abruptly at South Street and is used as a storage yard.

Due to Newark’s extraordinarily dense in-building and labyrinthian infrastructure, roadways and utilities, a multitude of physical conflicts exist that will need to be addressed during design and construction. Further complicating the project, the new tracks transition from an elevated viaduct at Newark Penn Station to at-grade at EWR. In between, the tracks will carry PATH trains under overpasses for I-78 and US-22, as well as through a tunnel under the NJT Raritan Valley Line. Numerous local streets cross the project ROW and a rail storage yard also abuts the proposed project.

Burns provided conceptual engineering consulting services with respect to catenary structures, DC traction power, and overhead contact systems. Traction Power engineers conducted a power study to verify that recommended substation relocations would be adequate. The OCS team examined all physical conflicts in the right-of-way, inclusive of catenary structures, signal bridges, signal power huts, wayside equipment and other field equipment.