The Alton & Southern Railroad Company was created in 1910, when the Aluminum Company of East St. Louis was dissatisfied with service it was receiving from the Southern Railway. The original line was built between the Southern Railway at the aluminum plant in Alorton and a new connection with the nearby St. Louis & Belleville Electric. Many expansions and railroad incorporations followed over the next several years to extend to reach the Mississippi River, Chicago, Peoria, and St. Louis. In the 1960’s, the Aluminum Company, now Alcoa, planned to turn the A&S into a major terminal railroad, building a hump and expanding its Gateway Yard and then put it up for sale in 1966. In 1968, the Missouri Pacific and Chicago & North Western purchased the line jointly. In 1973, the North Western sold its share to the SSW and the Missouri Pacific merged with the Union Pacific in 1982. UP gained complete control of the railroad in 1996, but under UP ownership, however, the Alton & Southern is still an autonomous company with all its own board of directors, legally separate from the Union Pacific. Today’s Alton & Southern Railway is a vital transportation artery. Up to 48 trains a day originate or terminate in Gateway Yard, with an average of 2100 cars humped and more than 3500 cars classified each day.