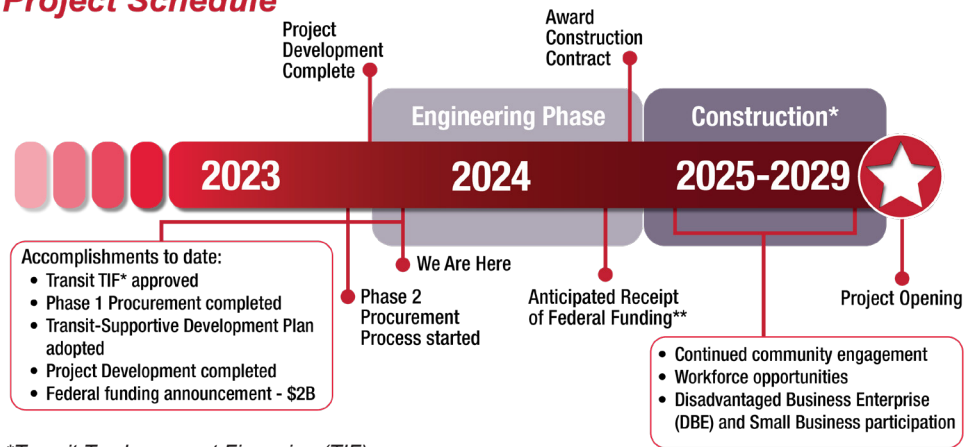


CTA Red Line Extension One Step Closer to \$1.973 Billion in Federal Funding

On Sept. 8, 2023, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) held a press conference announcing that the Red Line Extension (RLE) Project is in line for \$1.973 billion in critical grant funding needed to build the project! The event featured remarks from CTA President Dorval R. Carter, Jr., FTA Administrator Nuria Fernandez, Mayor Brandon Johnson, and multiple local and federal elected officials who made this effort possible. RLE has officially advanced into the next phase of the federal “New Starts” program – an important step to moving the project closer to groundbreaking. CTA can now begin the Engineering Phase of the project, which includes further design and engineering needed to build the project and identifies the federal grant dollars CTA can receive for the project once the Engineering Phase is completed and approved by FTA.



Project Schedule



*Transit Tax Increment Financing (TIF)
**Preliminary timeline subject to change as project advances.

With this news, we also launched our new [Instagram](#) page to bring you the latest news on the RLE project! Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) (@CTARedExt) to stay informed.

RLE TSD Plan Wins the 2023 Strategic Plan Award from the American Planning Association

We are excited to share the RLE “Transit-Supportive Development Plan (TSD)” has won the 2023 Strategic Plan Award from the American Planning Association – Illinois Chapter! The TSD Plan provides the City of Chicago with a comprehensive guide for future development in communities located near the RLE project area, including prioritizing equity through opportunities for economic development, quality of life, and community around the four new stations near 103rd Street, 111th Street, Michigan Avenue, and 130th Street. Learn more about the TSD Plan on our website at: transitchicago.com/rle/tsd



Red Line Extension Community Spotlight: Edwards Fashions nears 50 years in business!

Nearly 50 years ago, John Edwards opened a men's fashion store on Roseland's historic South Michigan Avenue. This once bustling commercial corridor was home to several clothing retailers, but John's store offered something special: quality men's wear at reasonable prices with a selection provided by an invested owner. John Edwards passed away in 2007 and his store has since been run by his sons, Ledall Edwards and John Edwards, Jr.

How has Edwards Fashions lasted half a century and two generations of family ownership? Ledall credits a neighborhood-first approach to doing business.

"My father used to have a saying...he said, 'son, you just can't come in and make money, you have to get involved ... you [have to] create the environment for you to be successful.'"



Ledall Edwards (l) and John Edwards, Jr.

John Edwards worked very hard to influence his environment. He was a founding member and served as President of the Roseland Business Development Council (RBDC). Ledall has followed this tradition, and currently serves RBDC as Executive Director. This civic stewardship is paired with an attention to detail and quality service.

"[My father] felt if you had to go outside your community to get those things, you really didn't have a community," said Ledall.

Customers who have relocated from the community still travel there for their fashion needs. With the investment from the RLE, customers from all over the city will be able to take advantage of rapid transit, which Ledall anticipates will have a positive effect on business and economic growth along the Michigan Avenue corridor.

"This Red Line Extension... it's going to change the landscape. I can see it!" he said.

Look for the Red Line Extension team in your community!

The RLE Project has always been a community-driven project, so engagement is vital to its success! In the past several months, the RLE team has participated in dozens of community, workforce, contracting events and meetings within or near the project footprint. This past summer we met hundreds of residents at the Taste of Chicago Pullman Pop-Up, the Beaubien Woods Celebration, the 9th Ward Juneteenth Block Party, the TCA Health Back-to-School Fair, Shop Roseland and other events! In addition to visiting community events, CTA's Diversity Programs unit hosts quarterly events designed to educate participants on contracting and workforce opportunities on the RLE and other major CTA construction projects.

Look for us at the following events in October:

Learn about contracting opportunities with CTA

Diversity Programs Q4 Outreach Event
October 5, 2023, 10 a.m. – Noon
Gately Park, 10201 S. Cottage Grove, Chicago, 60628
Register at <https://bit.ly/45wtIXS>

CTA Workforce Outreach Event





October 10, 2023, 10 a.m. – Noon
Gately Park, 10201 S. Cottage Grove, Chicago
Register at <https://Q4-Workforce-Outreach.eventbrite.com>

9th Ward Resource Fair

Thursday, October 12, 2023, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Pullman Center, 10355 S. Woodlawn, Chicago
For information, visit www.Ward09.com

To recommend a community event for the RLE outreach team, email RedExtension@transitchicago.com. To learn about CTA's Diversity Programs, visit www.transitchicago.com/diversity-programs.



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