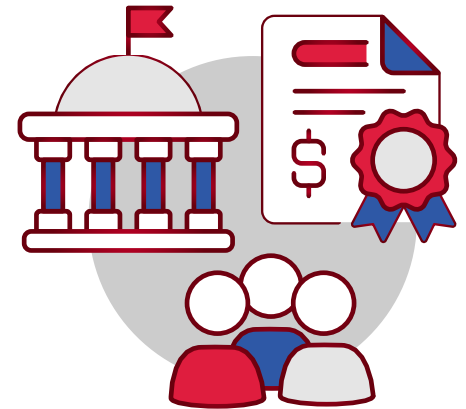


Biden Administration's Proposed Budget Includes \$350 Million for Red Line Extension Project

The City of Chicago and the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) are thrilled that the Red Line Extension (RLE) Project – one of the most transformational investments in agency history – has been included in President Biden's Budget Recommendation for Fiscal Year 2024. The inclusion of this significant level of funding in the President's Budget Recommendation reflects the importance of the RLE Project – not solely as a necessary transportation investment, but as a project that meets the Biden Administration's goals for infrastructure investments that foster equity and inclusion. If added to the final Congressional budget and approved, the \$350 million capital grant will continue adding momentum to this transformative project.



Transit TIF Approved by City Council for Red Line Extension Project

A new Transit Tax Increment Financing (TIF) district approved by City Council on December 14, 2022, will provide up to \$959 million in local funds for eligible costs involving RLE construction and administration.

“The Red Line Extension will be one of the single biggest investments on the Far South Side in decades,” CTA President Dorval R. Carter, Jr. said. “At CTA, we are dedicated to community involvement when it comes to our projects and always want to hear the voices of Chicago residents. RLE has been a community-input-driven project from the start, and members of the surrounding communities will remain vital in helping shape this project and its path forward.”

The creation of the Transit TIF allows CTA to leverage up to \$2.2 billion in Federal Transit Administration funding – or roughly 60% of the total project costs. The project has already received \$30 million through the U.S. Department of Transportation, and the CTA is pursuing additional federal, state, county, and Regional Transportation Authority financial support.

With the Transit TIF approved, plus the anticipated allocation of \$350 million from the Biden Administration's FY2024 Budget – the CTA is now positioned to seek entry into the next phase of the federal New Starts program, which is Engineering, and is also on schedule to pursue a Full Funding Grant Agreement in 2024.

The RLE project team is thankful to the countless community members, organizations, and elected officials who have advocated for this project over the years, without whom we would not have achieved this significant project milestone. While the efforts to secure the Transit TIF have concluded, the work continues. The CTA appreciates your support of the RLE Project.

Red Line Extension Community Spotlight: Ware Ranch Steak House Re-Opens!

Since 1969, the Ware Ranch Steakhouse, located at 11147 S. Michigan Ave., has been a landmark in the Roseland community. Countless customers have dined at the restaurant since childhood, holding many memories of first dates, graduations, and after-church gatherings. In 2018, Judy and Victor Ware bought the business from the original owners, renovating the entire restaurant, including updating the kitchen and second floor to serve as a future event space. The restaurant boasts an extensive breakfast, lunch, and dinner menu, including customer favorites such as pancakes, French toast, and the famous “John Wayne” and “Roy Rogers” steak dinners!



Victor and Judy Ware, Owners, Ware Ranch Steak House

When asked about RLE, the Wares, who are longtime residents of the area, are excited and looking forward to the opportunities that the RLE and future development within the project area will bring to Roseland and surrounding neighborhoods. “RLE will help drive businesses to the area, giving folks a place to eat and shop,” said Judy, who added she also believes the RLE will bring increased support to the businesses currently in the Roseland community.

Following a break-in and two fires that caused significant damage in 2020, the couple rebuilt the restaurant again and re-opened in early 2022. Despite these setbacks, the couple remains optimistic about the future of the steakhouse, one of few sit-down restaurants in Roseland. Their commitment to the restaurant demonstrates their dedication to the neighborhood.

Contracting and Workforce Opportunities with CTA and the RLE Project

In collaboration with CTA’s Diversity Programs, the RLE Project has hosted a series of events since 2022 designed to provide opportunities for potential prime contractors, subcontractors, Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBEs) and potential employees, to network in advance of contracting opportunities for RLE.

The mission of Diversity Programs is to create an environment of diversity, equity, and inclusion by promoting dialogue with the contracting community and other stakeholders that will improve the CTA’s ability to level the playing field and establish diversity as a critical component of the CTA’s contracting practices.

To stay informed about CTA’s wealth of Diversity Programs, including information on how to register as a DBE or CTA’s workforce goals, visit transitchicago.com/diversity-programs. To keep up-to-date on contracting opportunities for RLE or other CTA projects, register as a potential vendor at transitchicago.bonfirehub.com.

Questions?

Would you like to be added to our list for future Red Line Extension updates?

Contact us at RedExtension@transitchicago.com, visit our engagement website at transitchicago.com/RLE/engage, call CTA Customer Service at 1-888-968-7282, or write us at:

Chicago Transit Authority
Strategic Planning & Policy, 10th Floor
Attn: Red Line Extension Project
567 W. Lake Street
Chicago, IL 60661-1465



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