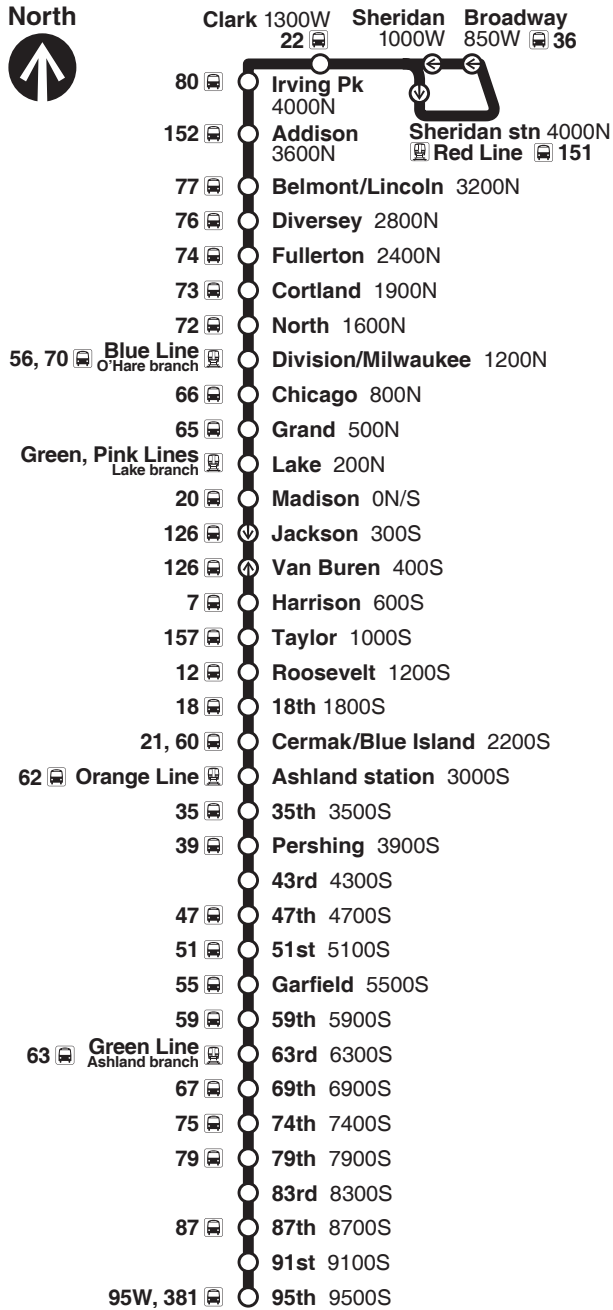
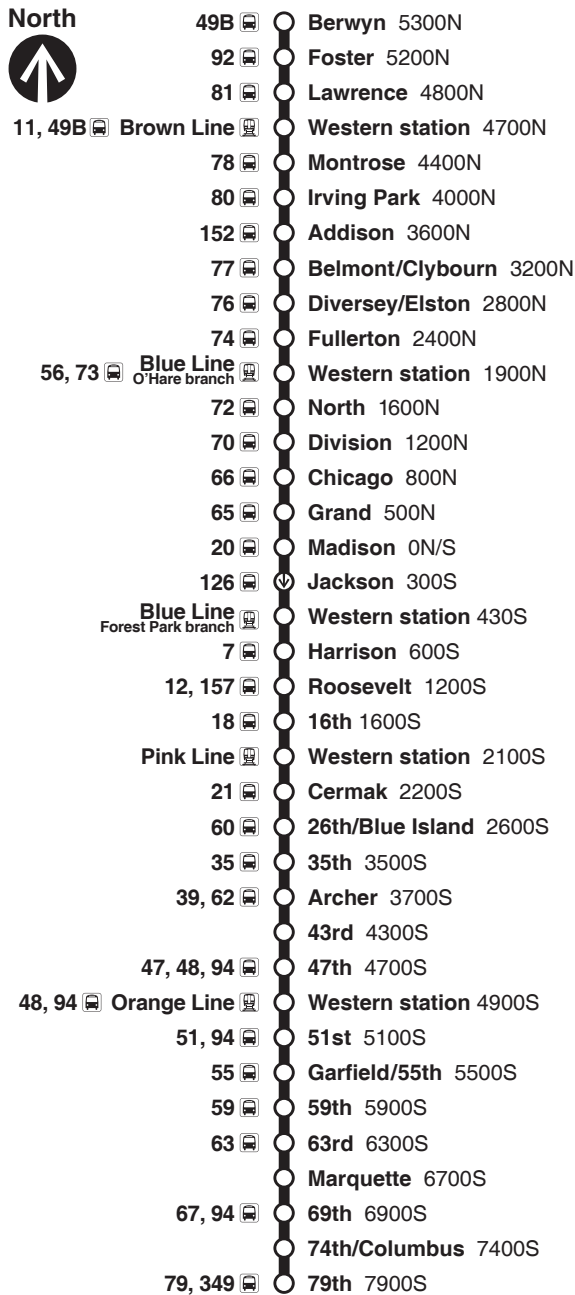


X9 Ashland Express Map



Buses stop only at locations shown on map. Check bus stop sign for X9 when boarding.

X49 Western Express Map



Buses stop only at locations shown on map. Check bus stop sign for X49 when boarding.

15JN135

Chicago Transit Authority

Ashland & Western Bus Improvements



transitchicago.com



Improvements Overview

The current bus routes on Ashland and Western avenues – the #9 Ashland and #49 Western – are critical crosstown links in the city’s transit network. Each day, these two critical north/south routes provide more than 55,600 CTA rides.

However, due to traffic congestion and close stop spacing, both are affected by slow bus speeds, leading to consistent bus bunching and big gaps in service.

In late December 2015, we’re launching a three-phased project aimed at improving both travel speeds and service reliability along these two busiest bus routes in the city.

How Service Will Be Improved

We know that bus riders expect fast and reliable service. In order to create immediate improvements to the level and quality of service along both the Ashland and Western corridors, we’re taking the following steps towards improving #9 and #49 service:

- **Reintroducing the #X9 Ashland Express and #X49 Western Express bus routes**, providing more service on these corridors
- **Optimizing bus stop spacing on the local routes**, improving travel time for the majority of customers
- **Transit Signal Priority (TSP) upgrades**, allowing buses to proceed through signalized intersections more quickly

More information about each of these improvements is provided in this brochure.

Additional information can be found online at transitchicago.com/ashlandwesternx.

Ashland and Western Express Buses

The first major improvement in the Ashland and Western corridors will be the reinstatement of the Ashland and Western Express routes.

Beginning on Monday, December 21, the **#X9 Ashland Express** and **#X49 Western Express** bus routes will run during the morning and afternoon rush periods. The express service will reduce travel times for passengers on these heavily traveled corridors. Express buses will make stops roughly every half-mile and at bus and rail transfer points. Maps for each of these routes can be found on the back side of this brochure.

The express routes will save customers up to 17 minutes on trips along each route. Below are sample travel time savings:

Brown Line to Orange Line AM Peak Trips

Current Time	Ashland: 53 min; Western: 72 min
New Express Service	Ashland: 45 min; Western: 59 min

79th Street to Orange Line AM Peak Trips

Current Time	Ashland: 36 min; Western: 20 min
New Express Service	Ashland: 31 min; Western: 16 min

The #X9 and #X49 will operate during weekday rush periods only. Hours of service will be as follows (times are first and last departure from terminal):

#X9 Ashland Express:

Ashland/95th north to Sheridan Red Line*
6am*-9am & 3pm*-6pm weekdays

Sheridan Red Line south to Ashland/95th*
6am-9:04am** & 3:04pm-6:04pm** weekdays

Where marked, service begins earlier (*) or ends later (**) between 74th St and Sheridan Red Line. See timetable for details.

#X49 Western Express:

Western/79th north to Western/Berwyn
5:30am-9am & 2:30pm-5:30pm weekdays

Western/Berwyn south to Western/79th
6am-9am & 2:30pm-5:30pm weekdays

Local Bus Stop Changes

As part of the three-phase effort to improve speeds along the two routes, the CTA will also be optimizing bus stop spacing on the local routes by removing some of the least-used stops. This will allow buses to travel faster by reducing the time buses spend frequently merging in and out of traffic while still providing convenient access along both corridors.

When implemented, up to 85% of all trips on Ashland and Western will be unaffected by bus stop relocations, while all trips will benefit from faster service. When choosing which stops to discontinue, we evaluated daily ridership characteristics, as well as connectivity to CTA, Metra and Pace. We also reached out to citizens, community groups, and elected officials for feedback on the identified stops before making a final decision.

Transit Signal Priority

Transit Signal Priority (TSP) upgrades will make it possible for buses running behind schedule to communicate with traffic signals along each corridor to hold green lights longer or to shorten red lights. Travel time savings of up to 5 additional minutes are expected along each corridor once TSP is implemented.

The projected timeframe for implementation of TSP on each corridor is as follows:

- Spring 2016: Ashland from Cermak to 95th Street
- End of Year 2016: Western from Howard to 79th Street
- End of Year 2017: Ashland from Cermak to Irving Park Road

TSP installation work is being spearheaded by the Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT) and the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA).