



For Immediate Release

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**CTA Red and Purple Modernization (RPM) Phase One Project Wins
“Innovative Transportation Solutions Award”**

Historic \$2.1 billion CTA project recognized by Women’s Transportation Seminar (WTS) Greater Chicago Chapter for project innovation and women project leaders

The Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) announced today that the historic \$2.1 billion Red and Purple Modernization (RPM) Phase One Project received the Innovative Transportation Solutions Award from the Women’s Transportation Seminar (WTS) Greater Chicago Chapter, highlighting an innovative transportation project led by female project management.

RPM Phase One received the award during Women’s History Month based on the notable innovation and ambitious scope of the project, with women making up 50 percent of the CTA RPM project team. The WTS award recognizes the tremendous infrastructure challenge undertaken by the CTA RPM Phase One Project on CTA’s most heavily traveled line, the Red Line.

“This critical and complex project would not be possible without the hard work of our dedicated team, including a number of remarkable and talented female leaders,” said CTA President Dorval R. Carter, Jr. “I thank the distinguished Women’s Transportation Seminar Greater Chicago Chapter for this honor.”

“CTA is rebuilding 100-year-old structure in densely populated communities while maintaining service to our customers, requiring our team to balance innovation and strategic thinking, while remaining sensitive and responsive to the neighbors in the project area,” said Grace Ohs, CTA RPM Vice President. “I am proud to be a part of the team of women project leaders who are bringing this transformation to Chicago and I thank our partners at Walsh-Fluor Design-Build Team and ESPJV for their leadership and support of RPM.”

“On behalf of the Walsh-Fluor Design-Build Team, we want to thank the CTA and all other team members for their determination and efforts to make this project a success,” said Erin Schultz, RPM Project Manager for Walsh-Fluor. “We are very proud of our diverse workforce and management team and we look forward to delivering this milestone project to the community.”

RPM Phase One Project Overview

RPM Phase One Project includes three major components:

- Reconstruction of the Lawrence, Argyle, Berwyn, and Bryn Mawr Red Line stations into larger, fully ADA accessible stations; and replacement of track structure totaling six track-miles that is a century old.
- New Red-Purple Bypass construction (completed in 2021); followed by the reconstruction of Red and Purple Line track structure between Belmont and Newport/Cornelia.
- Installation of a new signal system on 23 track miles between Howard and Belmont that, similar to roadway traffic signals, will improve train flow and service reliability.

“Design-build” and other innovative construction strategies

The components of the RPM Phase One project have been accomplished using a “design build” project delivery method with contractor Walsh-Fluor and construction manager ESPJV that have kept CTA Red and Purple lines operational throughout the construction period. By designing and building the project under a design-build contractor, the project can evolve more efficiently and be completed with reduced impact to the community.

To meet the project goals, a number of technical challenges have been addressed and resolved by the project team. Examples include the relocation by 30 feet of the historic Vautravers Building at 947-949 W Newport to allow CTA to rebuild Red and Purple line elevated track structure and eliminate existing curves to increase train speeds. Another example is the installation of sound walls at track level and building a “closed deck” track structure to reduce train noise in the community.

Community engagement

The RPM Phase One Project has focused on preserving the unique characteristics of the project area’s neighborhoods combined with features that will better serve CTA customers.

The Lawrence, Argyle, Berwyn and Bryn Mawr stations will have wider platforms, better lighting, and modern amenities, with aesthetic components and new, commissioned artwork that reflect the character of local communities in the project area. This remarkable level of investment will not only improve transit service but will also enhance connections within our communities and throughout the city.

For more information about RPM Phase One, please visit transitchicago.com/rpm.

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