CTA Blue Line Forest Park Branch
Feasibility/Vision Study
Review and Status Update

Carole Morey, Chief Planning Officer
CTA Study on 55 year old Forest Park Branch:

- Confirm existing conditions and ROW needs
- Prepare infrastructure, service, and design recommendations
- Evaluate funding options
Community Outreach Efforts

- **Public meetings (with IDOT)**
  - October 7 & 8, 2013 – 203 participants

- **IDOT I-290 Corridor Advisory Group Meetings**
  - 6 status updates throughout the project, including 2/2013, 7/2013, 9/2013, 7/2014, 8/2015, 12/2016

- **IDOT stakeholder briefings (Fall 2015)**
  - Broadview, Forest Park, Bellwood, Hillside, Cook County, Chicago Aldermen, CDOT

- **CTA City of Chicago outreach (Summer 2016)**
  - Elected officials/aldermen, residents, peer agency representatives, local community groups, and businesses
  - Open house June 29, 2016
Recommendation: Add auxiliary entrances to single-entry stations

- Keeler Avenue (Pulaski station)
- Lavergne Avenue (Cicero station)
**RECOMMENDATION: Modernization and Reconstruction for Branch**

- **Rehabilitate infrastructure**, starting with track work (27.3% slow zones, ongoing maintenance to delay increases)
- Propose **wider station platforms and elevator access** for entire branch — Utilize design opportunities to lessen weather/noise impacts on branch
- Maintain existing layout for double entry stations; add **auxiliary entrances** for single-entry stations (Western, Pulaski and Cicero)
- Include **turn-back track west of IMD** to accommodate construction phasing and future service increase to IMD
- **Redesign and expand Forest Park Terminal** within current parcel to modernize yard and shop, bus and pedestrian connections
Recommendation: Improve existing design

- ADA accessible
- Landscaping
- Pedestrian crossings/refuges
- Station entrance design and locations
- Reduced noise via station design
- Bike racks
- Lighting
- CTA maintenance & construction

CTA BLUE LINE VISION STUDY
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Cost Estimate/Construction

Cost is based on conceptual planning study which will be refined in design

$1.7B in 2016, including:

- Track and related infrastructure
- Reconstruction of Forest Park Yard, maintenance shop and terminal
- Stations from UIC-Halsted to Forest Park
- 6 substations

Construction start contingent on identifying funding

- CTA will continue to work closely with IDOT
- Construction would be sequenced in coordination with reconstruction of the highway.
Next Steps

- Participate in a joint IDOT/CTA Public Hearing on January 25 and 26, 2017
- Complete the CTA Blue Line Forest Park Branch Feasibility Vision Study
- Upcoming Phases include:
  - NEPA, Design and Construction Procurement
- Seek federal, state and local funds for upcoming project phases
- Continue to work closely with IDOT and other project stakeholders throughout project development