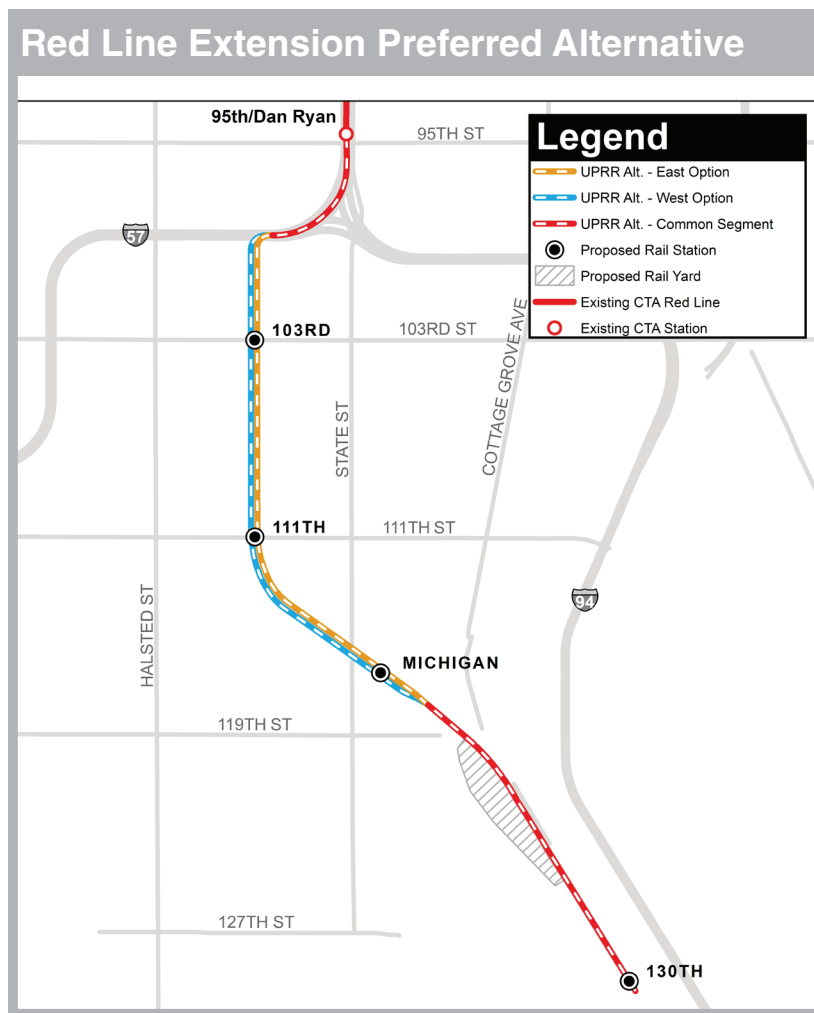


Red Line Extension: Expanding Transit Access on Chicago's Far South Side

The RLE Project is a major CTA initiative that would add new transit service to Chicago's Far South Side by extending its busiest rail line, the Red Line, south from 95th Street to 130th Street. The 5.3-mile extension would include four new accessible rail stations near 103rd Street, 111th Street, Michigan Avenue and 130th Street.

CTA is currently considering two options of the UPRR Alternative: the East Option and the West Option. The East Option would run to the east of the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) tracks between 99th Street and 118th Street, and the West Option would run to the west of the UPRR tracks in that segment. The alignment would be the same for the two options from 95th Street to 99th Street and from 118th Street to 130th Street.



Why is the Red Line Extension Project Important?

- **Expanded access and service improvements** – The Red Line Extension would improve service and transit accessibility for Far South Side neighborhoods where transit-dependent residents currently lack direct access to rail service.
- **Reduced commute times** – Between 2005 and 2010, commute times were, on average, 20 percent longer for those that currently live in the area that would be served by the Red Line Extension, than for other commuters in the Chicago region. The Red Line Extension would save the average commuter in the communities affected by this project 87 hours per year.
- **Catalyst for economic growth** – CTA estimates that 29,900 direct, indirect, and induced jobs would be created with investment in the Red Line Extension Project. In addition, new stations could serve as catalysts for neighborhood revitalization.
- **Enhanced livability** – The improvements would also provide better transit access to affordable housing, jobs, services, and educational opportunities – enhancing livability and neighborhood vitality.

Red Line Extension: Project Update

CTA is progressing on a multistep federal process to secure project approval and funding. CTA has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that evaluates the environmental impacts of the two options of the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) Alternative as well as the No Build Alternative. CTA is seeking public feedback on the two options under consideration.

After publishing the Draft EIS, CTA will review and address public comments to the Draft EIS, and based on public feedback and the environmental review, CTA will announce the selected option (either the East Option or the West Option). CTA will formalize the selected option, its impacts, and mitigation measures in the Final EIS. During preparation of the Final EIS, CTA plans to apply to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) for entry into the Project Development Phase of this project to pursue federal funding for construction of the project under the competitive federal “New Starts” program. There will be future opportunities for public input as this process progresses.

Red Ahead

The Red Line Extension is part of the CTA’s Red Ahead program, a comprehensive initiative for maintaining, modernizing, and expanding Chicago’s most-traveled rail line. The Red Ahead program also includes the Red Line South Reconstruction Project (completed 2013), the 95th Street Terminal Project (in construction), the Wilson Station Reconstruction Project (in construction), and the Red and Purple Modernization Program (currently in engineering and design).

