

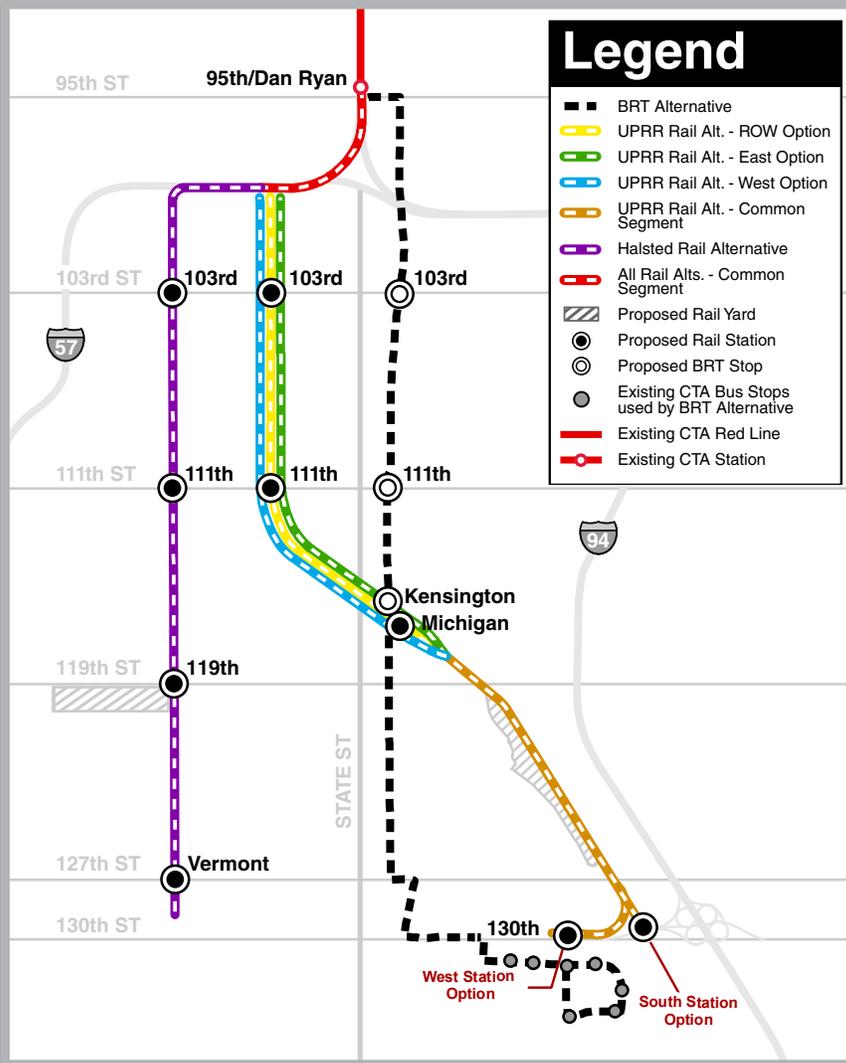


Red Line Extension

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

The Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) is proposing to add major new transit service on Chicago's South Side by extending its busiest rail line, the Red Line, south from the 95th Street Terminal to the vicinity of 130th Street. The proposed 5.3-mile extension would include four new stations near 103rd Street, 111th Street, Michigan Avenue/116th Street, and 130th Street – each new station would include bus and parking facilities. CTA is evaluating the environmental impacts of three options for the Locally Preferred Alternative along the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) tracks including an option within the existing freight right-of-way (ROW Option), an East Option, and a West Option. A rail alternative along Halsted Street and a bus rapid transit (BRT) alternative along Michigan Avenue are also under evaluation.

Red Line Extension Alternatives



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 between 2,600 and 4,100 jobs would be created during Red Line Extension construction. In addition, new stations may serve as catalysts for neighborhood revitalization and help reverse decades of disinvestment in local business districts.
- **Enhanced livability** – The improvements would also provide linkages to affordable housing, jobs, services, and educational opportunities – enhancing livability and neighborhood vitality.

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Red Line Extension: Project Update

CTA is progressing on what is a multi-step federal process to secure project approval and funding. CTA has been conducting the technical environmental analysis of the project alternatives, and is preparing a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), expected to be published in early 2015. The Draft EIS will describe each alternative, explain the existing environmental setting and community context for the proposed route, and review potential positive/negative effects of construction and operation.

Following approval of the EIS, CTA can apply to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) for entry into the Engineering Phase of this project and pursue federal funding 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 (beginning in summer 2014), the Wilson Station Reconstruction Project (beginning in fall 2014), and the Red and Purple Modernization program (currently in planning).

Estimated Travel Time Savings

