



Lawrence to Bryn Mawr Modernization Station-by-Station Meeting FAQ from May 3-6, 2021

The CTA held station-by-station meetings to provide the public with an update of upcoming construction activities for the Lawrence to Bryn Mawr Modernization Project, which is a part of the Red and Purple Modernization (RPM) Phase One project. Below is a summary of the questions and answers discussed in each of the meetings.

Bryn Mawr station

Q. How long will Bryn Mawr station be under construction and will it be closed at any point?

A. The Bryn Mawr station will close on May 16, 2021, but you will still be able to access the Red Line from the new Bryn Mawr temporary station entrances. During Stage A construction (2021-late 2022), there will be a separate entrance for Howard, or northbound, service located on Bryn Mawr. 95th-bound, or southbound, service will use the entrance on Broadway. During Stage B (late 2022-2024), there will be southbound-only access via a temporary entrance on Bryn Mawr. The new station will open by the end of 2024.

Q. When will the temporary station open and will the temporary stations be ADA accessible?

The temporary station will open May 16, 2021. It will not be ADA accessible but the new permanent station, opening in 2024, will have both elevator and escalator access.

Q. Given the tracks are expanding and getting wider, are there plans for some type of sound barrier?

A. Yes, the new track structure will have noise barriers.

Q. Is construction working from north to south?

A. Yes, the contractor, Walsh-Fluor, will perform demolition and new construction activities starting at the north end of the project area around W Ardmore Ave and proceed south.

Q. When the new stations open, what happens to the temporary stations?

A. The new stations are currently planned to open to the public in late 2024. The temporary stations will then be demolished at that time.

Q. With Walsh-Fluor moving into the old Nookies restaurant space on W Bryn Mawr Ave, will the parking lot behind the building still be used for alternative parking for residents unable to access their garages due to construction?

A. Yes, the parking lot will be available for alternative parking during construction. Affected residents must contact Marcy Jensen of Walsh-Fluor at (708) 253-9772 or marcyjensen@wfdbt.com to register for parking.

Q. How will travel times on the Red and Purple lines be affected during construction?



A. We expect travel times between Howard and Belmont to be moderately affected. Red Line trips are expected to be 1-2 minutes longer, and Purple Line trips could be up to 4-6 minutes longer. We recommend that customers allow extra time for travel.

Q. Will the new station have closed heated room/enclosure or additional open heat areas on platform? Restrooms?

A. There will be heaters and wind blocks on the platforms during the winter months. CTA stations do not have public restrooms.

Q. Are all track bridges over streets going to be repaired/reconstructed as part of the project?

A. Yes, as part of this project, 11 viaducts will be reconstructed.

Q. Will this phase include night-time construction?

A. Yes, there will be night-time work. Residents will be provided with advance notice of construction activities via Construction Activity Notices posted online and in the community, our online construction map on transitchicago.com/rpm/preconstruction, and construction email alerts.

Q. How loud will the construction be? What hours will construction occur? Any adjustments related to more people working from home during the COVID-19 pandemic?

A. Construction noise levels will be similar to the current Purple Line Express trains passing by on the tracks. Construction activities will generally take place from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Saturdays, though there will be some night-time work. No adjustments have been made to the schedule based on work-from-home.

Q. Will there be reroutes of bus service?

A. Yes, the #92 Foster will be rerouted to stop at both Bryn Mawr temporary station entrances. The #84 Peterson route will not be changed and will continue to stop at Bryn Mawr. Signage of the changes to the #92 route have been posted in the community and online.

Q. Will there be a shuttle service between the closed Berwyn and Lawrence stations and other Red Line stations?

A. Red Line stations on either side of Lawrence and Berwyn stations are already connected by the #36 Broadway bus route, so we will not have bus shuttles.

Q. What is the time frame for Stage A? What can be expected after Stage A is completed?

A. The Lawrence to Bryn Mawr Modernization Project will be built in two stages, Stage A and Stage B.

Stage A will start May 16, 2021, and end in late 2022, and include demolition of four stations and two of the four Red and Purple Line track structures – specifically, the two easternmost (northbound) tracks. It will also include reconstruction of those two track structures.

Stage B will begin in late 2022 and include demolition and reconstruction of the westernmost (southbound) tracks and construction of the new stations. The new stations will open in late 2024.

Q. How will I know when my garage is blocked?



A. CTA will provide advance notification via physical signage and online updates at transitchicago.com of all alley closures.

Q. How can I get information on job opportunities?

A. If you are interested in construction opportunities including training, visit transitchicago.com/rpm/workforce for general information and links to our workforce assistance agency partners [HIRE360](https://hire360chicago.com/cta/) [link: <https://hire360chicago.com/cta/>] and Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership [link: https://fs21.formsite.com/Workforce_Partnership/ipjheuko0n/index.html], which handle intake services and provide assistance with accessing training and job opportunities.

Berwyn

Q. Why does Berwyn have to close for 3 ½ years, and why is there no temporary station built at that location?

A. We are building brand new stations and track structures while continuing to provide Red and Purple Line service throughout construction. To accomplish this, we must do construction in two phases, which will take about 3 ½ years to complete.

Berwyn customers can access temporary Red Line stations at Bryn Mawr about ½ mile to the north, or Argyle about ¼ mile to the south, with both stations connected by the #36 Broadway bus. It wasn't possible to build a temporary station at Berwyn because there is no adequate place to do so.

You can find videos that explain the service changes on our web site at transitchicago.com/rpm/outreach.

Q. Will the #92 Foster and #146 Inner Drive Express buses be rerouted when Berwyn is closed?

A. The #92 Foster bus will be rerouted to the Bryn Mawr temporary station entrances starting on May 16, 2021. The #146 route will not change and will continue to make its layover at Berwyn/Broadway.

Q. How long will Berwyn be closed to pedestrians?

A. There are currently two weekend closures scheduled at Berwyn in late summer for bridge demolition and foundation construction. There will be intermittent sidewalk closures during the overhead weekend work and station demolition.

Q. Will Catalpa or Balmoral be closed any time?

A. There will be extended street closures on Ardmore, Catalpa, Balmoral, Winona, Ainslie and Leland for construction work, including demolition and new construction. There will be mainly weekend closures on Hollywood, Bryn Mawr, Berwyn, Foster, Argyle and Lawrence. More detail can be found in [our recent presentation to the Berwyn community](https://www.transitchicago.com/assets/1/6/LBMM_Stage_A_SBS_Berwyn_5.4.21_FINAL.pdf) [link: https://www.transitchicago.com/assets/1/6/LBMM_Stage_A_SBS_Berwyn_5.4.21_FINAL.pdf]. The community will receive advance notification of closures via physical and online signage, and construction email alerts.

Q. Will Purple Line Express trains stop at Red Line stations during the two-track operation?



A. No, Purple Line Express non-stop service between Howard and Wilson will continue during construction.

Q. For those who will lose access to parking when the alleys close, is there going to be extra security at the parking lot?

A. We understand residents' safety concerns. The contractor, Walsh-Fluor, has identified parking lots that will have controlled access and be managed by a professional parking company, which will handle monitoring and enforcement of parking. Walsh-Fluor will work with CTA, the alderman's offices and law enforcement to make them aware of when neighbors will be walking to these local lots.

Q. Will there be shuttle buses?

A. Red Line stations on either side of Lawrence and Berwyn stations are already connected by the #36 Broadway bus route, so we will not have bus shuttles.

Q. Will there be bicycle racks available for commuters at L?

A. Yes, the stations will have bike racks for our customers' convenience.

Q. Will the train run more or less frequently through the temporary stops?

A. The train schedules will remain about the same as they are today.

Q. What about noise abatement and rodent problems?

A. The contractor is committed to minimizing noise as possible with the use of noise blankets and other sound barriers, and completing the noisiest work during day-time hours as much as possible. The contractor will also use pest abatement methods throughout construction.

Q. We have many older adults and disabled residents living around Berwyn and Bryn Mawr. How will travelling for them during construction be resolved?

A. We have been communicating regularly with senior living housing managers, organizations like Access Living, Lighthouse and the Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities, and local aldermen about the project and what to expect. The four stations that are being reconstructed are connected by the #36 Broadway (all CTA buses are fully accessible) and that route can connect customers with the nearest accessible Red Line stations at Granville and Wilson. When the new stations open in late 2024, they will all have elevator and escalator access.

Q. Will bus service other than the usual #36 bus be available between Bryn Mawr-Berwyn and Broadway-Argyle, especially during winter?

A. There won't be any additional bus shuttles at this time. The #36 Broadway provides connections between stations. However, we will closely monitor ridership to ensure we have enough service while following COVID-19 physical distancing protocols on our buses.

Q. Will Berwyn Ave be closed the entire time the station is closed? Or will we be able to walk on it from Winthrop to Broadway?

A. In the next six months, May through November, there are two weekend-only closures planned for Berwyn to demolish the track viaduct and build new track foundations. Those are expected to occur late summer to early fall. All closures will be communicated to the public in advance.



Q. Will there be retail space in the new station?

A. No.

Q. Will the overpasses be raised so regular semis and trucks will be able to get underneath? And over the alleys?

A. Yes, the new overpasses will be raised from their current height. The new structure will meet all local and state standards for height requirements. Depending on location, the existing track structure at the rail level is about 15-16 feet high. The new tracks will be 5-10 feet higher, depending on location.

Q. Is it known currently whether both Foster and Berwyn at the tracks will ever be closed simultaneously?

A. Street closures on Foster and Berwyn will not occur simultaneously.

Q. Will Argyle and Bryn Mawr be open during the three years Berwyn is closed?

A. Yes, both Argyle and Bryn Mawr will have temporary station entrances during construction.

Q. When will we be notified of how to access alternative parking? How much heads-up will we get before alleys are blocked?

A. When your parking will be blocked, we will try to provide as much notice as possible – at least one to two weeks in advance. You will be notified via email, and posted Construction Activity Notices.

Q. For the alley east of the CTA tracks and west of N Winthrop Ave, what if there is a situation in which we need to get in, such as moving, who do we contact?

A. You can contact CTA at (331) 303-2499 for a call back or email us at RPM@transitchicago.com.

Q. How long will alley closures be each time? Will the new construction make the alleyway narrower?

A. There will be rolling closures of the alley between the CTA tracks and N Winthrop Ave, from W Thorndale to W Leland avenues, that could last days or weeks depending on the type of work being performed. You will receive advance notice of alley closures.

Q. Why will construction take so long? Is there any possibility that the project will be completed in less than 2 - 3 years?

A. Given the scope and complexity of demolishing and rebuilding stations and track structures while continuing to provide Red and Purple Line service, we expect this work to take about 3 ½ years to complete to open the new station in late 2024.

Q. When will the noise reach its peak?

A. Construction noise levels will be similar to the current Purple Line Express trains passing by on the tracks. Construction activities will generally take place from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Saturdays. The contractor will try to perform the loudest activities during this time.

Q. How will I know when my garage is blocked?



A. CTA will provide advance notification via physical signage and online updates at transitchicago.com of all alley closures.

Argyle

Q. Will there be a decrease in Red Line runs? If yes, what will the new 'average time' be between trains at peak hours?

A. The Red Line schedule will remain about the same as pre-construction. We expect travel times between Howard and Belmont to be moderately affected. Red Line trips are expected to be 1-2 minutes longer, and Purple Line trips could be up to 4-6 minutes longer. We recommend that customers allow extra time for travel.

Q. Will Argyle ever be closed on weekends?

A. No, extended closures on Argyle are required to take place during the week so the street can remain open on weekends.

Q. Will there be opportunities for place-making and public art?

A. Yes. There will be public meetings to provide the community with the chance to give input into new station area and station identifiers on the outside of the stations.

Q. The #36 bus is already crowded and slow, how are you going to address this during construction over the next three years?

A. Our service planning department is closely monitoring service and pre-construction ridership levels, and will continue to do so during construction. If more buses are needed, we will add service. As for bus speeds, they are dictated by traffic conditions on Broadway.

Q. How will bus transportation to and from Argyle station work?

A. The #36 Broadway bus will continue to stop at W Argyle Ave to provide bus-rail connection to the Argyle temporary Red Line station during construction.

Q. How many stations are being worked on at any one time?

A. During Stage A, we will be constructing two new temporary stations at Bryn Mawr and Argyle (Foster Ave. and Winona Ave.) for use during Stage B. No work on the permanent stations will occur during Stage A. During Stage B, we will be working on all four permanent stations simultaneously. The work will be staggered with construction starting at Bryn Mawr and finishing at Lawrence, but there will be overlap in construction at each station. The four stations will be open to the public at the completion of Stage B in late 2024.

Q. How will parking be affected? Will the city open lots to residents?



A. For residents whose garages are blocked during construction, Walsh-Fluor will provide free alternative parking. Affected residents must contact Marcy Jensen of Walsh-Fluor at (708) 253-9772 or marcyjensen@wfdbt.com to register for parking. As for metered and non-metered street parking, there will be occasional parking restrictions near CTA tracks during demolition and construction. We will provide notification to the community in advance of those temporary closures.

Q. Will all four rebuilt stations have both escalators and elevators?

A. Yes. We are building four larger and modern stations at Lawrence, Argyle, Berwyn and Bryn Mawr for Red Line customers that will all be accessible to customers with disabilities, including elevator and escalator access.

Q. Will the #146 and #148 bus routes be rerouted?

A. No, there are no changes to those routes during construction.

Q. Are you keeping to your projected timeline or has the pandemic altered completion dates?

A. The project is on schedule with new stations anticipated to open in late 2024.

Q. How long will this project take?

A. The reconstruction of the 100-year-old Lawrence, Argyle, Berwyn and Bryn Mawr stations and track structures will take about 3 ½ years, with new stations expected to open in late 2024.

Q. What are the expected train delay times due to construction? Will bus service be increased to compensate?

A. We expect travel times between Howard and Belmont to be moderately affected. Red Line trips are expected to be 1-2 minutes longer, and Purple Line trips could be up to 4-6 minutes longer. We recommend that customers allow extra time for travel. Alternative service includes the #36 Broadway bus. For individuals traveling downtown, there are a number of express bus options including the #146 Inner Drive Express and the #147 Outer Drive Express.

Q. Will there be station closures/service outages at Argyle?

A. No, the Red Line will be accessible via a temporary Argyle station during construction.

Q. How will the existing public art piece at the Argyle Station be preserved and reused?

A. Existing public art is expected to be reincorporated into the new stationhouse.

Lawrence

Q. Are you going to add longer platforms and longer trains before, during or after the RPM project?



A. When the Lawrence to Bryn Mawr station and track reconstruction is complete, the platforms will be longer and able to accommodate 10-car trains. However, the rest of the Red Line would need to have platforms lengthened before 10-car trains could be placed into service.

Q. Will there be opportunities for place-making and public art?

A. Yes. There will be public meetings to provide the community with the chance to give input into new station area and station identifiers on the outside of the stations.

Q. How will parking be affected? Will the city open lots to residents?

A. For residents whose garages are blocked during construction, Walsh-Fluor will provide free alternative parking. Affected residents must contact Marcy Jensen of Walsh-Fluor at (708) 253-9772 or marcyjensen@wfdbt.com to register for parking. As for metered and non-metered street parking, there will be occasional parking restrictions near CTA tracks during demolition and construction. We will provide notification to the community in advance of those temporary closures.

Q. Will there be shuttle buses to get to Lawrence and Argyle?

A. No. The #36 Broadway route provides connections between Lawrence and Argyle and Lawrence and Wilson.

Q. How many stations are being renovated at any one time?

A. During Stage A, we will be constructing two new temporary stations at Bryn Mawr and Argyle (Foster Ave. and Winona Ave.) for use during Stage B. No work on the permanent stations will occur during Stage A. During Stage B, we will be working on all four permanent stations simultaneously. The work will be staggered with construction starting at Bryn Mawr and finishing at Lawrence, but there will be overlap in construction at each station. The four stations will be open to the public at the completion of Stage B in late 2024.

Q. Do I need to walk to Wilson if I need to get on the train during the construction?

A. You can walk on N Broadway Avenue or take the #36 Broadway bus to get to the Wilson station. The #81 Lawrence will also be rerouted to Wilson station during construction.

Q. How often will Lawrence be closed to traffic?

There is currently one weekend closure planned for Lawrence Ave. during 2021, as well as intermittent parking lane and sidewalk closures. There will be additional closures during 2022.

Q. Is the project on schedule?

A. Yes, the project is on schedule with new stations anticipated to open in late 2024.

Q. Will Lawrence bus stop at Wilson station?

A. Yes, starting May 16, 2021, and throughout construction the #81 Lawrence will be rerouted to stop at the Wilson Red and Purple Line transfer station.



Q. Why are the stations closed for such a long period of time?

A. Given the scope and complexity of demolishing and rebuilding stations and track structures while continuing to provide Red and Purple Line service, we expect this work to take about 3 ½ years to complete and open the new station in late 2024.

Q. When will Lawrence be closed to all vehicles?

A. In the next six months, May to November, we anticipate one weekend closure likely in the late summer to fall 2021 for viaduct demolition. This closure and future closures will be communicated to the public in advance.

Q. Will the new stations have elevators?

A. Yes, all four stations at Lawrence, Argyle, Berwyn and Bryn Mawr will have elevators and escalators when the new stations open in late 2024