

Proposed West Side/West Suburban Service Improvements

Informational Open House
January 2006



Why Re-design West Side Services?

- Continue process of sub-regional studies and improvements
 - North Suburban / West Rogers Park
 - South Lake Shore
 - North Lake Shore
- Complement recent investment in Cermak Branch
- Update routes to reflect development and demographic changes
- Improve customer travel times and satisfaction

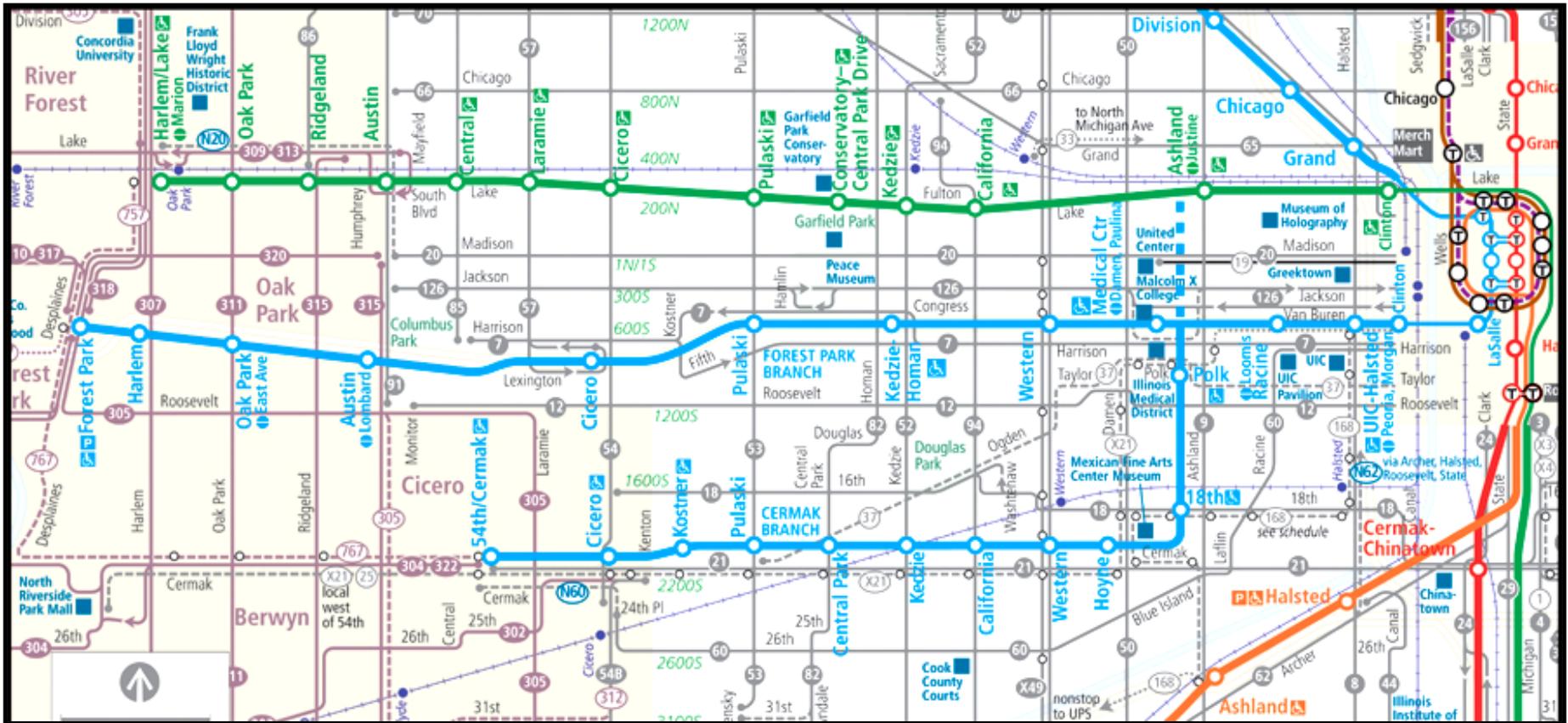


How Does the Process Work?

- Define a geographic area
- Collect and analyze data for study
- **Develop draft plan and present public information**
- Solicit Board approval to implement 180 day experiment
- Monitor, Evaluate, Modify
- Public Hearing
- Board approval for permanent adoption



Geographic Area: West Side/Western Suburbs



Boundaries: Chicago Ave., Forest Park Station, 26th Street, Halsted St



Data Used in West Side/West Suburban Study

- Land Use Data
 - Population and population density
 - Population change
 - Employment characteristics
 - School enrollment
 - Construction permits
- Customer Input
 - On board surveys
 - Customer Calls
 - Community workshops
- Ridership Data
 - 24 bus routes
 - 3 rail lines



Survey Results

- Major destinations: Illinois Medical District, University of Illinois at Chicago, CTA rail stations, and downtown.
- East/West bus customers travel to/from downtown with significant local activity in the west portions of each route.
- North/South route customers experience more local travel within the study area and transfer more to reach their final destination.
- Transfers to/from another CTA bus route represent 70% of the total transfer activities with 24% connecting to/from CTA rail line.
- Rail customers travel primarily to the Loop. Additional destinations are reached through transfers to other rail lines.



Bus Service Suggestions from Community

- Improve service reliability
- Provide more frequent service
- Provide additional express service(s)
- Create new shuttle service
- Reinstate bus service
- Extend bus routes or service hours



Rail Service Suggestions from Community

- Increase frequency and reliability of service
- Extend rail lines and overall service hours
- Operate Cermak Branch of the Blue Line via the Paulina Connector to the Loop - OR - Operate Cermak Branch of the Blue Line via the Subway to O'Hare
- Add rail service and stations



Ridership Data

Weekday Average Trips

- 24 Bus Routes 322,017
 - Western Corridor 33,706
 - Ashland Corridor 33,348
 - Madison Corridor 25,553
- Blue Line Forest Park Branch 29,346
- Lake Green Line 23,019
- Blue Line Cermak Branch 12,903



Proposed Service Improvements

- New Express Bus Routes
- New Local Routes
- Bus Route Extensions
- Rail Service Improvements



Proposed New Express Bus Routes

- #X9 Ashland Express
 - Service from Irving Park to 95th Street
- #X20 West Side Express
 - Service from Austin to Michigan
 - Austin to Western on Madison
 - Western to Michigan on Washington
- #X54 Cicero Express
 - Service from Jefferson Park to Midway Orange Line



Proposed New Local Routes

- #37 Sedgwick & #38 Ogden/Taylor
 - Service on the #37 Sedgwick/Ogden will be split into two routes to improve connections and reliability
 - Northern portion remains #37 Sedgwick
 - #38 Ogden/Taylor operates from Pulaski Blue Line to West Loop Metra Stations
- #127 West Side Circulator
 - New service to connect Roosevelt Road Orange, Red, and Green Lines and Metra Stations to Illinois Medical District. Circulator also supplements local service on #20 Madison and #12 Roosevelt



Proposed Bus Route Extensions

- #21 Cermak & #25 West Cermak
 - Cermak Road service consolidated into one route and extended at all times to North Riverside Park Mall
- #52 Kedzie/California & #52A South Kedzie
 - #52 service extended to 63rd Pl at all times and #52A terminates at Kedzie Orange Line Station
- #86 Narragansett/Ridgeland & #91 Austin
 - #86 extended farther north to Milwaukee Avenue and #91 trips all terminate at Jefferson Park Blue Line Station
- #90 Harlem
 - Service extended south from Grand to Harlem/Lake Green Line Station in Oak Park



Proposed Rail Service Improvements

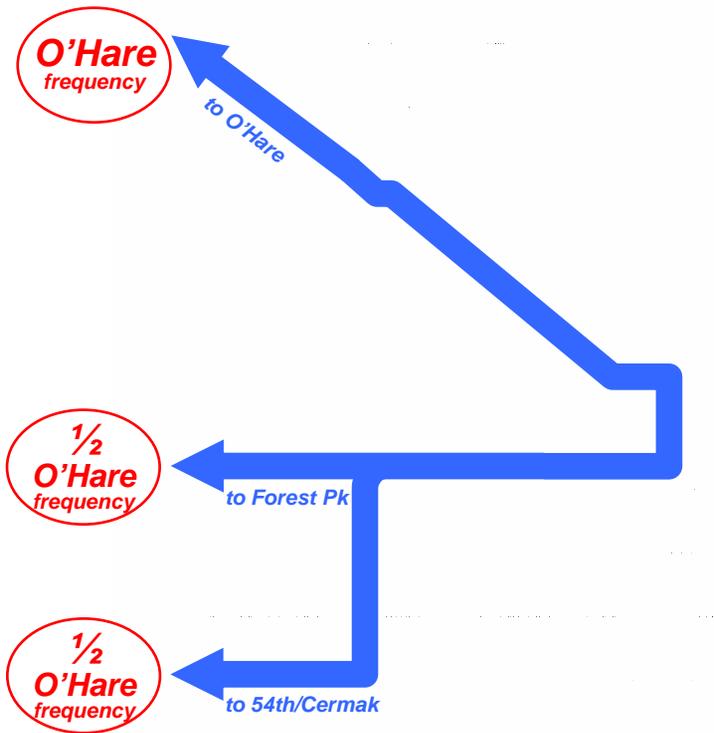
- Increase service on both the Cermak and Forest Park Branches of the Blue Line
- The Cermak Branch will travel over the Paulina Connector on the elevated structure during all hours of operation
- In addition, supplemental rush hour trains will travel through the subway connecting to the O'Hare Branch (existing route)
- The frequency of the Forest Park Branch will essentially double service by through routing with O'Hare Branch
- The #7 Harrison route via Wood – Polk – Ashland to supplement connections from Cermak Branch to the University of Illinois at Chicago.



Re-Routing Cermak trains to the Loop

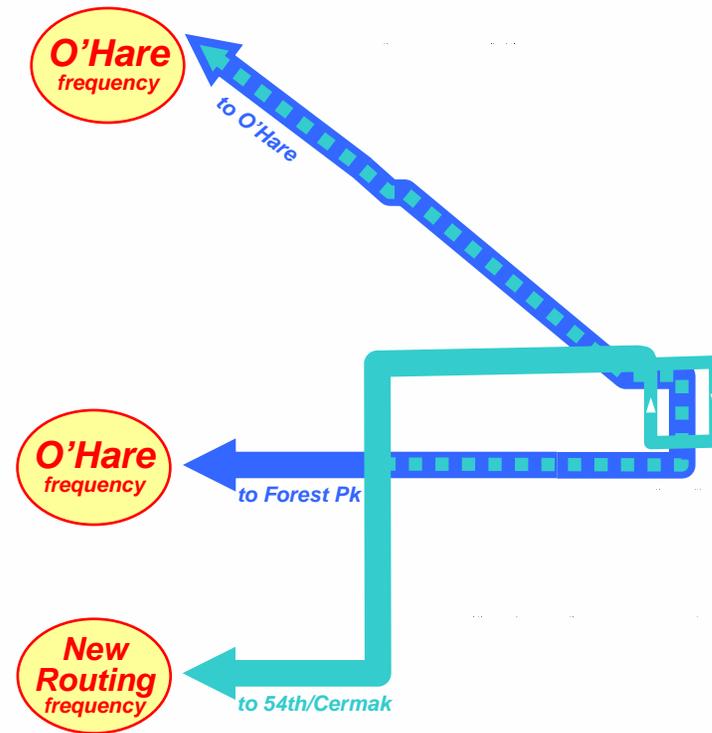
Current Blue Line Routing

Efficient service on O'Hare branch means less frequent service on West Side branches



Proposed Re-routing Using Paulina Connector

More frequent service to stations on the Forest Park and Cermak branches



Additional Improvements

- Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL) system installed on all buses to improve service reliability
- Go-Lane installed on #20 Madison service as test route and will be expanded to improve travel times
- Cameras installed at all Cermak Branch stations to improve safety and security and is being expanded as funding permits
- The bus system has been 100% accessible since June 2005. Cermak Branch is fully accessible with reconstruction of the line.



West Side/West Suburban Key Points

- Three new express routes are added
- Two new local routes are added
- Four existing routes are extended
- Five existing routes are modified
- Service on both the Cermak and Forest Park Branches will increase
- Service is introduced as an experiment to allow changes



Next Steps

- Define a geographic area
- Develop data for study
- Develop draft plan and present public information
- Solicit Board approval to implement 180 day experiment
- Monitor, Evaluate, Modify
- Public Hearing
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Why Implement as an Experiment?

- Previous corridor studies were initially implemented as an experiment
- Provides additional opportunity for public review and comment
- Allows maximum flexibility to make changes and corrections during testing phase





End of Presentation

Please Move to Boards
Around Room

