

ORDINANCE NO. 026-108

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A  
GRADE SEPARATION AGREEMENT  
WITH THE COMMUTER RAIL DIVISION  
OF THE NORTHERN ILLINOIS TRANSIT  
AUTHORITY ("METRA"), FOR THE RED  
LINE EXTENSION (RLE) PROJECT

WHEREAS, The Chicago Transit Authority ("Authority") is undertaking a project to build stations and extend rail infrastructure on the Red Line, also known as the Red Line Extension Project ("Project"); and

WHEREAS, The Project will extend the Red Line from the existing terminal at 95th/Dan Ryan to 130th Street and include four new stations near 103rd Street, 111th Street, Michigan Avenue, and 130th Street, with multimodal connections at each station including pedestrian, bike, bus, and Park & Ride facilities; and

WHEREAS, The Project will reduce commute times for residents, improve mobility and accessibility, and foster economic development, where stations may serve as catalysts for neighborhood revitalization; and

WHEREAS, The Chicago Transit Authority Act ("CTA Act," formerly MTA Act), 70 ILCS 3605/6, permits the Authority to acquire, construct, own, operate, and maintain a public service transportation system in the area; and

WHEREAS, The Project alignment known as the "Preferred Alignment" would cross over property owned by the Commuter Rail Division of the Northern Illinois Transit Authority ("Metra") in the vicinity of South Front Street and East 118th Street; and

WHEREAS, On October 14, 2022, the Board authorized the acquisition of various parcels of properties for the Project, including execution of right of entry agreements, for parcels that include RLE-196-RR, per Ordinance 22-18; and

WHEREAS, The Authority entered into an Easement Agreement for the bridge crossing over Metra property, on Parcel RLE-196-RR, at no cost to the Authority on October 20, 2025; and

WHEREAS, Metra requires the Authority to enter into a Grade Separation Agreement in substantially the form attached as Exhibit A hereto to perform work on, over, and under Metra property to construct the Preferred Alignment in connection with the Easement Agreement; and

WHEREAS, Metra will be performing certain work required to accommodate the Preferred Alignment, including repairs to their existing catenary structures, relocation of their existing energized aerial cables, and installation of down guides; and

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WHEREAS, Under the Grade Separation Agreement, the Authority agrees to reimburse Metra for the actual cost of Metra's work under the agreement, which Metra estimates at Eight Hundred Seven Thousand One Hundred Ninety-One Dollars and Zero Cents (\$807,191.00); and

WHEREAS, Notwithstanding the estimated cost of services, this Grade Separation Agreement requires the Authority to reimburse Metra for 100% of all actual costs and expenses incurred for their work under this agreement; and

WHEREAS, Staff recommends that the Board authorize Eight Hundred Seven Thousand One Hundred Ninety-One Dollars and Zero Cents (\$807,191.00) for reimbursement to Metra, plus a contingency amount of One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$150,000.00) to be paid upon the authorization of the Chief Infrastructure Officer or designee; and

WHEREAS, It is necessary and in the best interests of the Authority and the public for the Authority to enter into a Grade Separation Agreement with Metra; now, therefore:

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CHICAGO TRANSIT BOARD  
OF THE CHICAGO TRANSIT AUTHORITY:

SECTION 1. The Chair of the Chicago Transit Board, or designee, is authorized to execute a Grade Separation Agreement with Metra to construct a bridge crossing over Metra right-of-way.

SECTION 2. The Chair of the Chicago Transit Board, or designee, is authorized to execute a Grade Separation Agreement with Metra to reimburse Metra for all actual costs and expenses incurred for their work under this agreement up to a not-to-exceed amount of Eight Hundred Seven Thousand One Hundred Ninety-One Dollars and Zero Cents (\$807,191.00).

SECTION 3. The Chair of the Chicago Transit Board, or designee, also authorizes an additional contingency in an amount up to One Hundred Fifty Thousand and Zero Cents (\$150,000.00) for additional reimbursements to Metra or its agents for actual services provided, subject to the approval of the CTA's Chief Infrastructure Officer or designee.

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SECTION 4. The Chair of the Board, or designee is further authorized to take such actions and execute such documents as may be necessary to implement the objectives of this ordinance.

SECTION 5. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage.

APPROVED:

PASSED:

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Chair

September 22, 2026

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Secretary

September 22, 2026