



Welcome to Your New Blue.

Say goodbye to slow zones and outdated stations. Say hello to Your New Blue—a four-year initiative to improve the O'Hare Branch of the Blue Line, from Grand to O'Hare. The plan will:

- » Rehabilitate stations
- » Repair tracks
- » Upgrade signal and power systems
- » Provide faster commutes
- » Deliver more reliable service
- » Maintain a more welcoming environment

A New Blue for You

On a typical weekday, more than 80,000 riders use stations along this part of the line, and Your New Blue will be the largest, comprehensive investment in the Blue Line since the O'Hare branch was first extended to the airport from Jefferson Park in 1983-84. The program will improve 13 stations, repair more than 18,600 feet of track, and upgrade track signals between Jefferson Park and O'Hare.

Announced in December by Mayor Rahm Emanuel and Governor Pat Quinn, the \$492 million program is funded through local, state and federal sources, and is part of more than \$4 billion in transit modernization projects announced by Mayor Emanuel since 2011.



Station Improvements

Thirteen stations—from Grand to Cumberland—will receive improvements as part of Your New Blue. Many of the station structures and finishes are original, dating back in some cases more than 100 years:

Grand (1951)
stairway, mezzanine and platform improvements

Chicago (1951)
stairway, mezzanine and platform improvements

Division (1951)
stairway, mezzanine and platform improvements

Damen (1895)
complete rehab of station house, platform and entrance plaza

Western (rebuilt 2000)
entrance plaza, station house improvements; public art installation

California (1895)
complete rehab of station house, platform and entrance plaza

Logan Square (1970)
station and entrance upgrades

Addison (1970)
new elevator, making the station fully accessible

Jefferson Park (1970)
station, platform and bus terminal improvements

Irving Park through Cumberland (1970-1983)
station and platform repairs and improvements



Track and Subway Improvements

Your New Blue will make improvements to three sections of Blue Line tracks:

Milwaukee Elevated Tracks

from south of Logan Square to south of Damen. Opened in 1895; structure is original. — replace wooden ties, tie plates and fasteners, footwalks

Dearborn Subway

from Division to Clinton. Opened 1951. — repair tube/tunnel, improve platforms, replace signage

Kimball Subway

from just south of Logan Square to north of Belmont. Opened 1970. — install water-management system, improve platforms, replace signage



Signal and Power Upgrades

Track signals and electrical power infrastructure are critical components to efficient and safe rail operations. Your New Blue will make a number of improvements to those systems that will enhance reliability and system safety.



Blue Line Station Renovations: California, Western and Damen

IMPROVEMENTS: The \$33 million station improvement plan for California, Western, and Damen will provide customers a safer, more comfortable transit experience. Opened in 1895, the California and Damen stations are among the CTA's oldest stations.

Both stations get extensive stationhouse and platform upgrades and repairs that include structural repairs as well as improved lighting, signage, more turnstiles and new bike racks. Historic features of the stations will be preserved and restored. Western, which is already a modern facility in a good state of repair, rebuilt in 2000-01, will receive utility upgrades, additional bike racks, and a new canopy over the sidewalk with LED lighting. All three stations will receive new public art.

IMPACTS: In order to complete the major repairs and improvements planned for the California and Damen stationhouses and platforms, it will be necessary to temporarily close both stations;

see details below. The Western station needs less extensive improvements and repairs, so the station will remain open throughout the construction period.

Temporary street and alley closures and parking restrictions will be periodically necessary to complete construction work, and will be announced in advance of each occurrence.

ALTERNATE SERVICE: When each station is closed, customers will be able to access Blue Line service from adjacent stations using #56 service, which parallels the Blue Line between Logan Square and downtown; see below for details. In addition, Divvy, Chicago's bike sharing system, may be a great alternative for customers during this period. There are Divvy docking stations located near the Damen and California stations; visit divvybikes.com for details and locations.

California Station Closure

WHEN: September 4 to October 16 (42 days)

ALTERNATE SERVICE:

- Blue Line train service at the adjacent stations at Western and Logan Square.
- #56 Milwaukee bus service to Logan Square or Western stations, downtown, or other destinations along the Blue Line. Additional #56 service will be added between California and downtown during weekday rush periods, southbound in the morning and northbound in the evening.
- Overnight bus service will be provided on the new #N56 California Station Owl route during the closure, to link to the closest stations in either direction of the closed California station.



Damen Station Closure

WHEN: October 20 to December 22 (63 days)

ALTERNATE SERVICE:

- Blue Line train service at the adjacent stations at Division and Western.
- #56 Milwaukee bus service to Division and Western stations, downtown, or other destinations along the Blue Line. Additional #56 service will be added between Damen and downtown during weekday rush periods, southbound in the morning and northbound in the evening.
- Overnight bus service will be provided on the new #N56 Damen Station Owl route during the closure, to link to the closest stations in either direction of the closed Damen station.

