

Chicago CTA 'L' Changes

System & Line changes for the CTA

A for-fun proposal by PFreeman008



Notes

- As a reminder, this is just a fun thing. I'm not associated with the CTA, RTA, or Metra in any way. Nothing here is actually going to happen.
- Anywhere you see text in italics, that is my personal commentary on the change, and not descriptive.
- I outlined the services (as well as Metra) using the NIMBY Rails game; then drew the map up by hand using Adobe Illustrator.

System Wide Changes

Line Name Change

As new lines get added, finding unique color names can be more difficult, so lines now have "proper" names rather than just colors names. These names are, when possible, based on historic names. For example, the "Douglas Line" (formerly Pink Line) was originally the Douglas branch of the Blue Line.

I'm not 100% set on all the names, in particular names marked with an ''. Give me suggestions for better ones!*

New Line Names

	Blue	Congress	Rosemont » Loop » Forest Park
	Red	Main*	Howard » Loop » 130th
	Green	Lake	Harlem/Lake » Loop » Midway or South Chicago
	Brown	Ravenswood	Rosemont or Jefferson Park » Loop
	Purple	Evanston	Linden » Howard » Loop (express)
	Orange	Midway*	Midway » Loop
	Pink	Douglas	54th/Cermak » Loop
	Silver	Airport*	Midway » O'Hare
	Aqua	West Side*	Belmont » Division » 95th/Dan Ryan
	Yellow	Skokie Swift	Old Orchard » Howard

Fare zones

Fare zones now exist on the map. This is part of a larger plan to merge CTA, Pace, Metra, etc into one fare system. In other words travelling from say, Davis to the Loop you pay the same for the 4 zones regardless if you take the CTA or Metra.

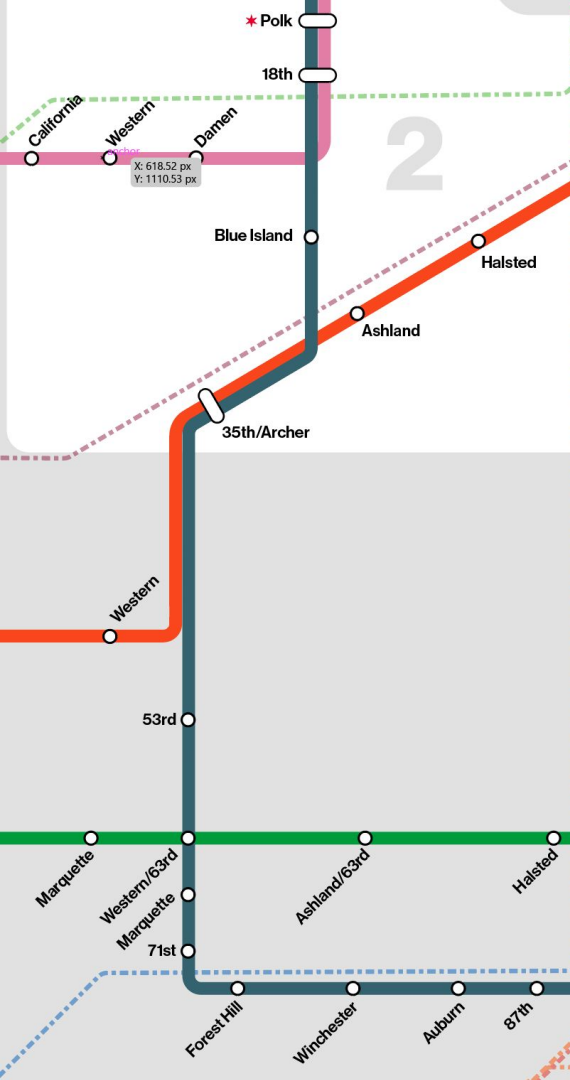
This is just a for fun map, I'm not going to set actual prices; and in reality these would change over time anyways.



New Lines



The Airport Line (silver) runs from Midway to O'Hare up Cicero. It joins the existing Congress Line (blue) at Montrose, where it runs express to Rosemont. The line interchanges with the Douglas Line (pink) at Cicero/Cermak, Douglas Line (blue) at Mandell, Lake Line (green) at Moreland, and Metra trains at: Ogden Ave, Grand/Cicero, Montrose, and Jefferson Park.

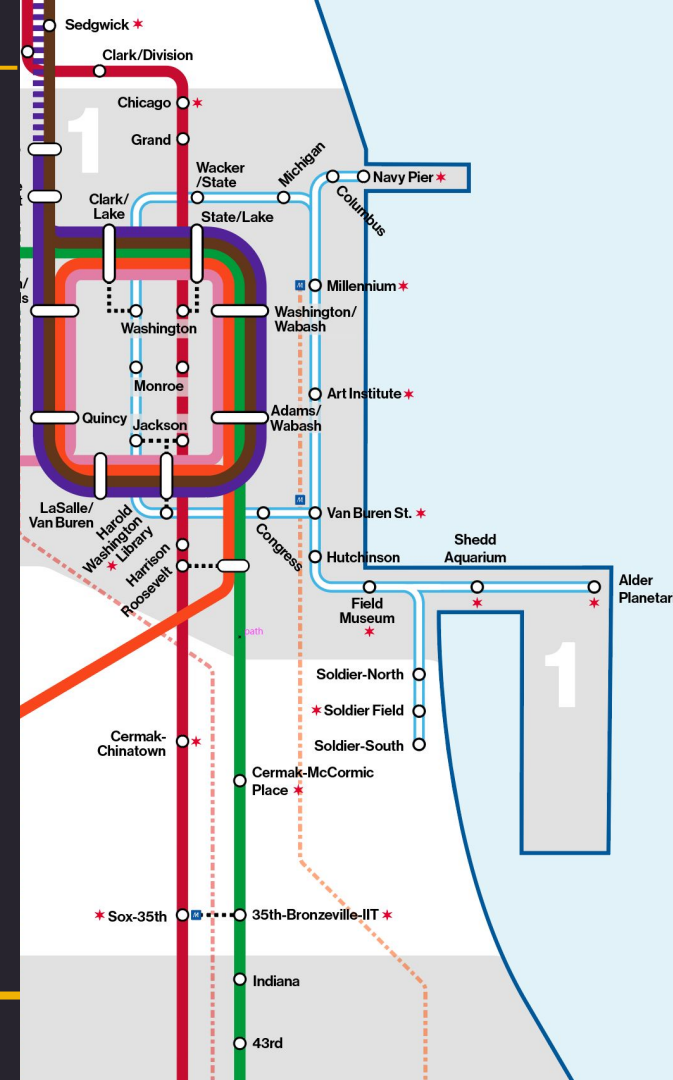


West Side Line

The West Side Line runs west from Belmont on the North-South Mainline to 95th/Dan Ryan on the Main Line (red). This line avoids going through downtown by running parallel with the Ravenswood Line (brown) until Paulina, after which it turns south, briefly running aside the Douglas Line (pink) for Polk & 18th, then sharing track with the Midway Link (orange) for 35th/Archer. It has an out-of-station interchange (OSI) with the Congress Link at Division, and crosses the Lake Link (green) at Western/63rd. It has a connection with Metra at Clybourn.

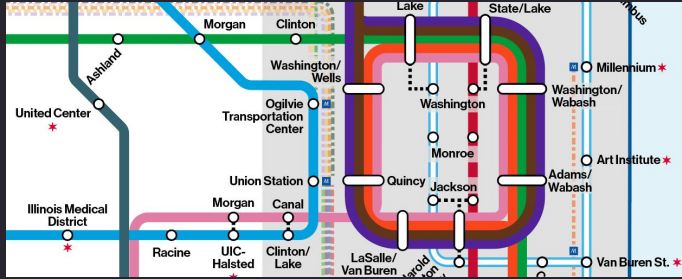
Streetcar

A streetcar system for the loop area has been added. The streetcar runs a loop down Columbus, then across on Wacker to Dearborn, then returning back at Van Buren St. There are a couple branches, one up to Navy Pier, and two down to the Museum Campus, and Soldier Field.



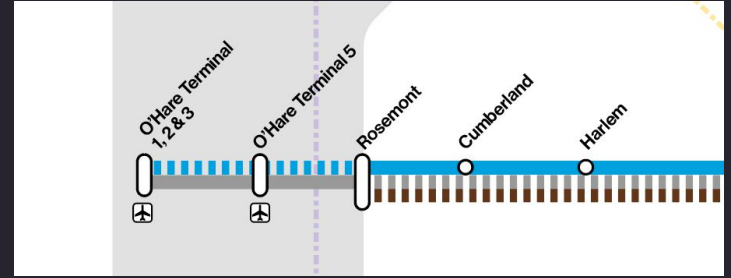
Existing Line Changes

Congress Line



Downtown realignment

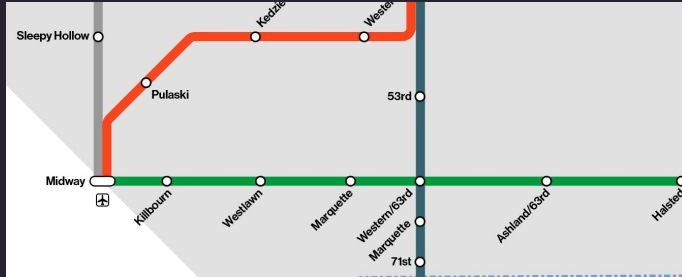
This line no longer runs in the Dearborn subway, and instead runs on the west side of the river, with stops at Union Station & Ogilvie.



O'Hare

The Congress Line only runs out to Rosemont, with select services continuing on O'Hare. A stop at Terminal 5 has been added.

Lake Line



Midway Extension

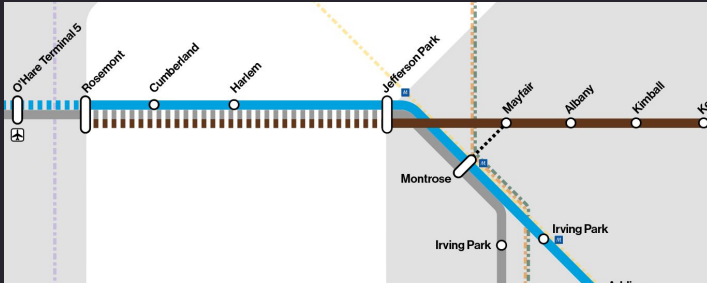
To the west, the line now goes as far as Midway meeting up with the Midway & Airport lines.



South Chicago Extension

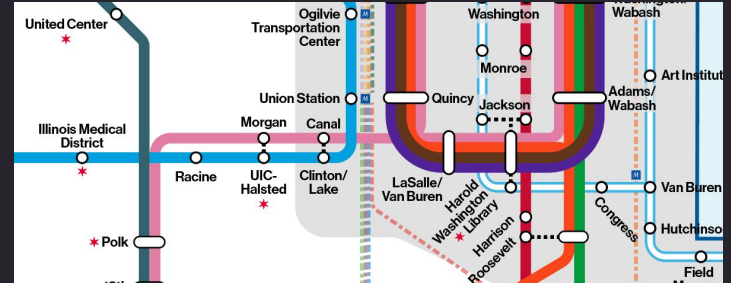
To the east, it meets with the Metra Electric mainline at Jackson Park & down to terminate at the Metra Electric South Chicago station.

Ravenswood & Douglas Lines



Ravenswood Kennedy Extension

The Ravenswood Line has been extended west to Rosemont. It connects with the Congress & Airport Lines at Jefferson Park, and then select trains run express to Rosemont.



Douglas Loop Realignment

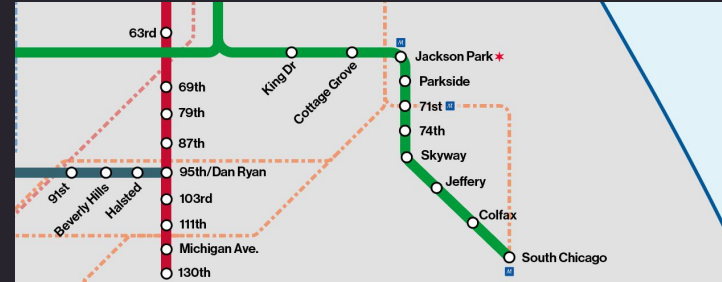
This line now enters the loop in the south west corner (there used to be a line here). With new stops at Canal (OSI to Clinton) and Morgan (OSI to UIC-Halsted), before rejoining it's current route. The new West Side Line now runs on the Paulina Connector (with a stop at the United Center).

Skokie Swift & Main Lines



Skokie Swift Expansion

Some abandoned stops between Howard & Oakton-Skokie (Ashbury/Ridge, Dodge, Crawford-East Prairie) have been reinstated; and the line has been extended the line up to Old Orchard.

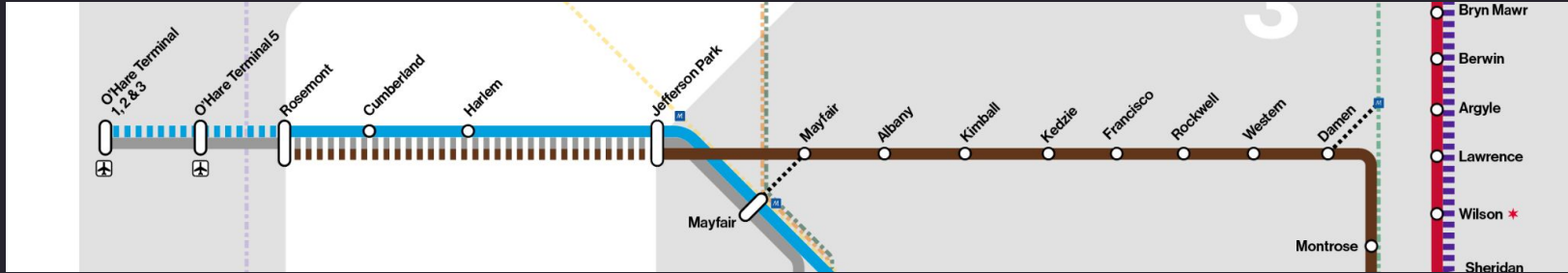


Main Line Note

Not really my change, but reflected in the map is the RLE to 130th.

Station Changes

Northwest Transfer Hubs



Jefferson Park

Jefferson Park has become a new transfer hub for 'L' trains. The Ravenswood Line terminates here, as well as the Airport and Congress lines passing through. In addition, you can transfer to Metra UP-NW trains for a faster route into the city. *(Remember fares are the same now)*

Mayfair

Next door to Jefferson Park is Mayfair station. This is a larger Metra transfer hub, with UP-NW, NSL, & MIlw-N trains all stopping at Mayfair. Airport & Congress line 'L' trains stop at Mayfair, and it's a short Out of Station Interchange (OSI) to the Ravenswood Line stop of the same name.



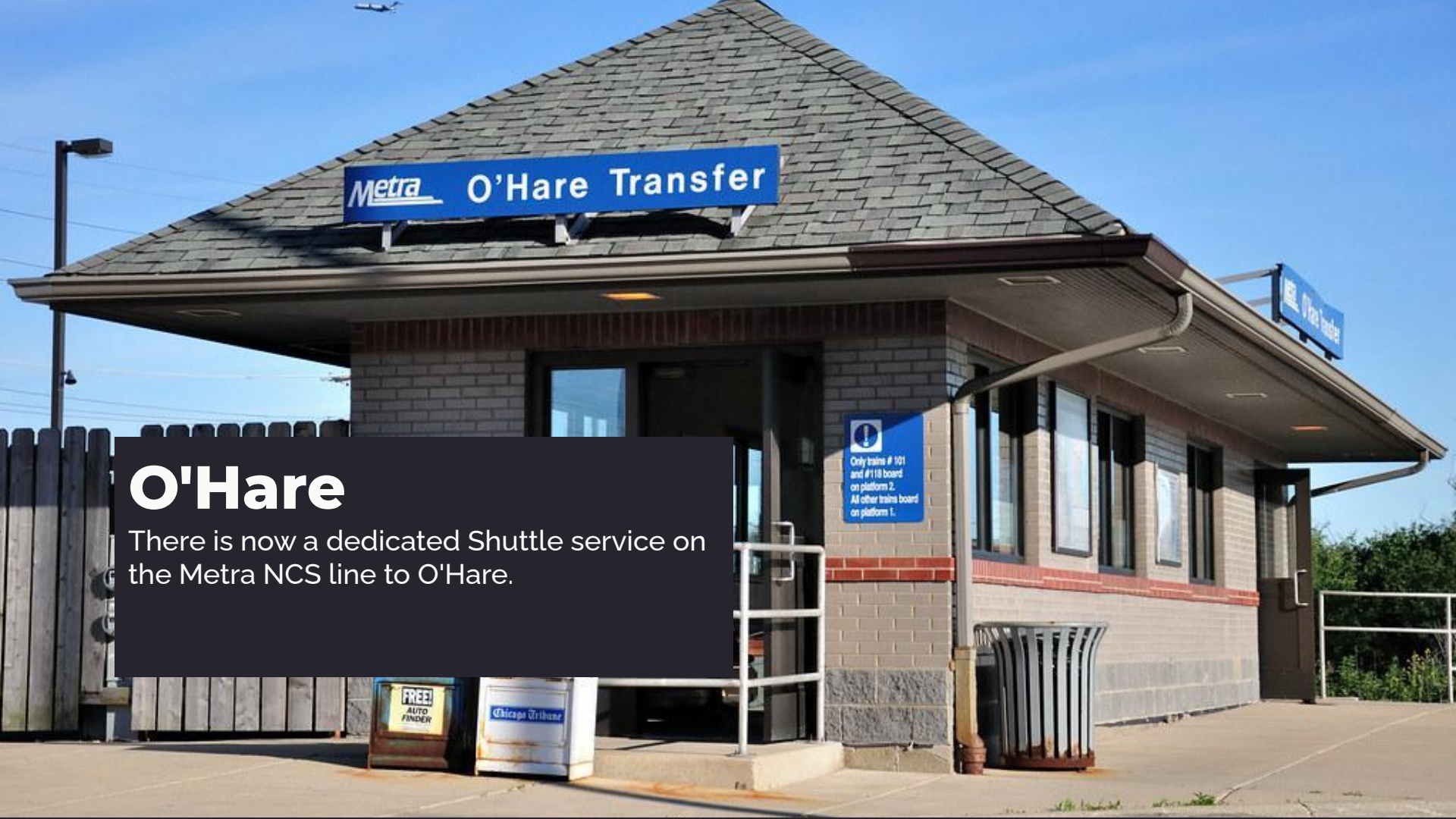
Metra Changes
Not fully displayed
on my map

North Shore Line

There is a new Metra Line, the North Shore Line that heads north out of Union Station, following the Milwaukee North Line to Montrose, where it heads more directly north. It connects to the Skokie Swift (yellow) at Oakton-Skokie.

This is a partial re-activation of the historic Chicago North Shore & Milwaukee Railroad. And is shown on the map in CNS&M Green.



A photograph of a Metra O'Hare Transfer station building. The building has a gabled roof with grey shingles and a blue sign that reads "Metra O'Hare Transfer". The exterior walls are made of light-colored bricks with a red brick horizontal band. There are several windows and a set of stairs leading to the entrance. A blue sign with a white exclamation mark and text is posted on the wall. A trash can is visible near the entrance. In the foreground, there are newspaper vending machines, one of which is labeled "FREE AUTO FINDER".

Metra O'Hare Transfer

O'Hare

There is now a dedicated Shuttle service on the Metra NCS line to O'Hare.

Only trains #101 and #118 board on platform 2. All other trains board on platform 1.

LaSalle Station

LaSalle station has been closed. Rock Island trains now originate out of Union Station. In addition to this change, the Electric now serves the Beverly Hill branch to Blue Island, and the RI runs express to Blue Island.

I'm considering breaking up the Electric services... at least in name.



Future...

I still want to add an additional Metra north-south service that avoids downtown. One terminus will likely be Blue Island in the south then go up to Montrose or Jefferson Park? Still working on that idea.





Map design & slideshow by PFreeman008.
Photos from Google & personal collection.

CREDITS: This presentation template was created by **Slidesgo**, and includes icons by **Flaticon**, and infographics & images by **Freepik**

