

North Belmont Red and Purple Reconstruction

Final major phase of work (aka “Stage 3”) beginning fall 2023

FAQ October 2023

Q. What is happening with the project now?

A. As part of the Red and Purple Modernization Project, we are rebuilding 100-year-old Red Line and Purple Line track structures between the Addison and Belmont stations. As of October 2023, we have nearly completed reconstruction of two of four tracks and related structure that need to be rebuilt, and anticipate putting the two new tracks into service before the end of the year.

When those tracks go into service, we will begin reconstruction of the remaining two tracks. The work includes completely reconstructing 100-year-old tracks and structure between W. Belmont Ave. and W. Cornelia Ave., including removing the track curve at W. Newport Ave. that restricts train speeds. The new track structure is designed to allow trains to move quicker, more smoothly and with less noise.

Q. How far along is this project now?

A. We are now two-thirds complete with work we are doing north of Belmont, which includes a new Kimball-bound Brown Line rail bypass put into service November 2021 and are nearing completion of new southbound Red and Purple line elevated track structure between Addison and Belmont. Additionally, the southbound Brown Line track work has substantially completed foundation rehabilitation, lead abatement and repainting on the structure.

Q. Why is this work necessary?

A. Our elevated track structures are a century old and need to be rebuilt to provide our customers with faster, smoother and more reliable service. The new sections of CTA track structure – the bypass and the new Red and Purple line tracks – allow trains to travel more efficiently with fewer delays, and provide us with additional capacity to add trains to meet ridership demand.

Q. What work is left to do?

A. We are nearing completion of what will be the southbound Red and Purple track structures and will begin construction of what will be the northbound tracks. That work will include demolition of the old elevated structure, drilling and installing new foundations and erecting the new elevated structure. When the entirety of the track work is completed in 2025, we will then make street-level improvements and reconstructions to the streets, sidewalks and alleys that have been affected during construction.

Q. How will the construction affect the neighborhood?

A. The impacts will be similar to those in the reconstruction of the first two tracks and will include demolition noise, street-level road reconstruction and overnight and weekend work when the fewest passengers are using CTA service.

There will be occasional street closures of N Clark, W Cornelia, W Newport, W Roscoe and W School, as well as some alley closures under CTA tracks between W Belmont and W Cornelia. No more than two streets will be closed at once, nor will there ever be more than two alleys closed simultaneously. Alternative parking will be provided to affected residents and garbage/recycling pickup will be maintained throughout construction. If you need parking because your alley/parking is blocked from CTA construction, please contact Carson Poole of Walsh-Fluor at (312) 882-1512.

Q. Will there be Red and Purple line service during this next phase of construction?

A. Yes, we have provided and will continue to provide Red and Purple line service throughout the construction period.

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