

Rosemont Transit Center Upgrades Could Begin In July

Diane Turner-Hurns | June 16, 2016



Rosemont Station

Buses of all sizes, cabs, limos and passenger vehicles pickup and drop off passengers at the Rosemont CTA Blue Line Station off of River Road.

Once a construction manager is selected in July, work on curbs, basins, pedestrian walkways, bus bays, passenger pickup and drop-off areas and new signage at the Rosemont CTA Blue Line station off River Road should begin, Cook County officials said last week.

Commuters will then see construction cones and barrels in place signifying the beginning of the project. Cook County officials said they will hand out flyers to transit center commuters outlining construction prior to its start.

A firm to head up construction will be selected through the bidding process, officials said, then the Cook County Board of Commissioners must approve the selection before the project moves forward. Officials expect that to be done soon.

The transit center was built in 1983.

“This is a major transportation hub. It has many multi-uses. This project will improve the area for commuters and users including adding tools for bicyclists such as bike racks and more,” Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways Superintendent John Yonan, P.E., told the Journal & Topics.

The project is expected to cost \$1.5 million and be completed by October. County officials say Pace will reimburse Cook County for the entire cost of the project, according to a May agreement.

“Investing in transit is investing in one’s community and the region,” Yonan said. “We’ve enjoyed working with Rosemont officials and Mayor Brad Stephens. They know the importance of investing in transportation, which connects all of our communities. Renovating the transit center plays a major role in the big picture of improving our transportation system for all users.”

The transit center is at the intersection of I-190 and Des Plaines River Road just south of I-90. The CTA Blue Line train, connecting commuters between O’Hare Airport and downtown Chicago, stops in Rosemont throughout the day. Several area Pace bus lines and local shuttles make regular stops there, as do taxi drivers and others just dropping-off and picking up passengers.

“This is a great transit center, we want to make it better,” Yonan said.

This includes adding safer pedestrian walkways, reconfiguring the parking and bus bays, reengineering the parking lot layout and more.

“Right now there is just one small sidewalk for pedestrians. We will be providing pedestrian paths and improving the pavement,” Yonan said. “However, as we add sidewalks, 26 parking spots will be going away.”

He said workers will construct more drainage and catch basins, too.

“We want to make cutaway bays for the buses so there will be no conflict with pedestrian traffic,” he said. “The area will be more clearly marked and easier to maneuver.”

The 33-year-old transit center handles over 6,000 commuters a day.

“We are pleased the project is moving ahead this summer and look forward to its completion. It will be great for the village -- for its residents, businesses, visitors and pass through commuters,” Christopher E. Burke Engineering and Village Engineer Mark Wrzeszcz told the Journal & Topics. “We look forward to continuing to work with the county.”

Anticipated increase in public transportation demand, due to new express Pace bus service on the widened Jane Addams Memorial Tollway (I-90), is expected to be eased with the transit center renovations.

A larger scale re-do of the River Road station continues to be developed by the state and county. This could include a multi-story parking garage.

“I am a strong supporter of expanding transit options in Cook County,” Cook County President Toni Preckwinkle said. “The Rosemont project is an example of how the county’s Department of Transportation and Highways is improving the region’s transportation network to support economic growth.”