

# ON THE BI-LEVEL

**Metra**

Metra's Monthly Commuter Newsletter

December 2018

## Happy holidays from Metra

Metra wishes all its customers a safe and happy holiday season.

Looking ahead to 2019, we are cautiously optimistic that next year the state of Illinois will take action to address the chronic capital funding shortfalls that have plagued Metra and indeed the entire state. With a new governor and a lot of fresh faces in the Legislature, there is renewed hope that Springfield will recognize that the cost of not addressing our funding shortfalls would far exceed the cost of addressing them. The region's economy and environment needs Metra, and Metra needs help.

To help make its case, Metra has identified several priorities that would require a \$5 billion commitment from the state. These priorities, outlined here in no particular order, aim to improve safety and security, reduce operating costs and/or gain ridership. We want you, and our lawmakers and taxpayers, to know what we would do with an



increase in funding.

We would:

- Purchase 40 new locomotives to increase efficiency, reliability and ridership and decrease pollution.
- Purchase 400 new cars to increase efficiency, reliability, ridership, safety and security, improve the customer experience and reduce maintenance.
- Convert 54 locomotives to AC propulsion to increase efficiency, reliability and ridership and reduce maintenance.
- Rebuild at least 10 bridges a year to increase safety and reliability.
- Enhance many stations with more cameras, warming shelters, etc. to increase efficiency, ridership, safety and security and reduce maintenance.
- Replace or reconfigure the A-2 interlocking, the biggest switching location and biggest chokepoint in the Metra system to

increase efficiency, reliability, ridership, safety and capacity.

- Make several enhancements to add express trains and improve service, such as more yard space, more crossovers and longer platforms.
- Begin to electrify the Rock Island Line and explore rolling stock alternatives to increase efficiency and reliability and decrease pollution.
- Complete the 75th Street Corridor Improvement Project and Rock Island improvements to increase reliability and ridership on the SouthWest Service and create capacity at Chicago Union Station.
- Expand service to O'Hare to increase ridership.

We know this is a big ask, but we have big needs that have gone unaddressed for too long. We hope you will join us in working with the governor and your representatives to make this happen next year.

Thank you for riding Metra!

# Winter Travel Notes

## Kids ride free Dec. 24 through Jan. 4

Metra is extending its popular weekend Family Fares program to weekdays from Dec. 24 through Jan. 4, making it easy for families to enjoy the season without the hassle of driving. That means up to three children aged 11 and under can ride for free with each adult during this period. Metra is making travel during the holiday period even more affordable by offering a special \$10 unlimited ride holiday passes for Dec. 24-Dec. 25 or Dec. 31-Jan. 1. Tickets can be purchased on board, from a ticket agent or on the Ventra App, available for free in the App Store or Google Play.

## Parking now available near Healy Station

Metra riders who commute from the Healy Station on Chicago's North Side have a new parking option. Outreach Community Church, located at 4047 W. Fullerton Ave., is offering monthly permit parking for Metra riders in its

19-space parking lot one block from the Healy Station. Permits are \$40 per month. For more information or to secure a permit, contact Outreach Community Church at 773-218-1033.

## Looking ahead to 2019

Next year will see several significant developments to benefit Metra customers. We will unveil an upgrade to the Ventra App early in the year. We also will be issuing a Request for Proposals (RFP) for new cars - and we're looking for alternative designs. We expect to approve a contract for new or remanufactured locomotives. The work on the UP West third track project and UP North bridge/Ravenswood Station project will continue. We will start a test of reverse commute service on the Milwaukee District North Line, funded by a unique public-private partnership. And the new Positive Train Control (PTC) safety system will be rolled out on more lines.



## EVERYONE BENEFITS, EVERYONE SAVES!

Reward your employees and your company with a pre-tax transit benefit designed for commuters.

Retain and recruit the best employees while you reduce costs. Enroll in RTA's Transit Benefit Fare program at [MyTransitBenefit.com](http://MyTransitBenefit.com).

Use promo code  
**HRMAC18**  
by 1/31/19 to get  
your first month  
of fees waived!

It's the RIDE thing to do.  
 **Transit Benefit**  
FARE PROGRAM

## Chicago Municipal Employees



Credit Union

## ATTENTION METRA EMPLOYEES AND RIDERS!

All METRA employees and riders are automatically eligible for membership in the Chicago Municipal Employees Credit Union (CMECU)! Founded in 1926, it is the oldest credit union in the State of Illinois!

- CMECU is a not-for profit cooperative, we return profits to members in the form of lower fees on loans and higher return on savings - "People Helping People"
- We offer the same types of loans and financial services as the banks, but at a fraction of the cost. 1st and 2nd mortgages, student loans, personal loans, auto loans and credit cards - We are lending!
- You are a member - not just a customer!
- Discover the difference of Chicago Municipal Employees Credit Union today! To become a member go to:  
[www.cmecuonline.org](http://www.cmecuonline.org)

Chicago Municipal Employees Credit Union -  
Chicago's Credit Union since 1926!

**Metra**

**UBER**

Taking you door to door