

Coalition for a Modern Metra Electric

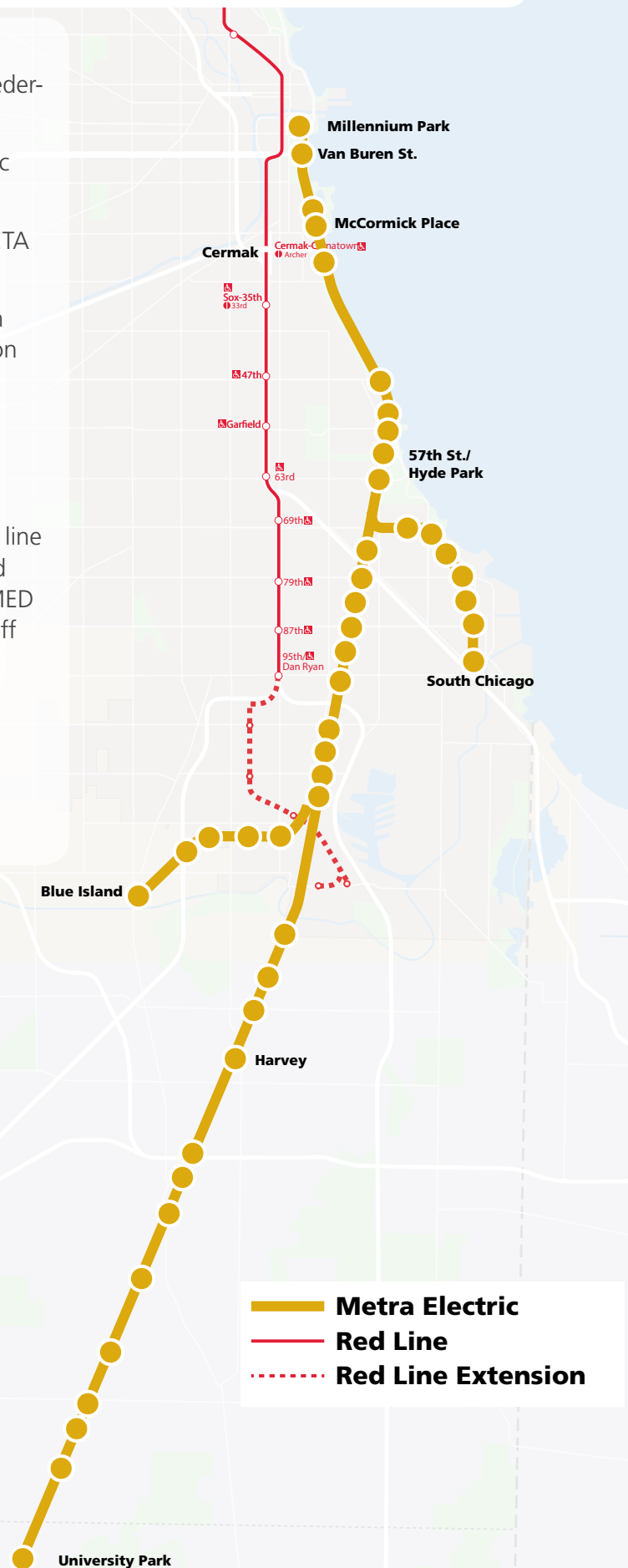
The mission of the Coalition for a Modern Metra Electric (CMME) is to work with Metra and our local, state, and federal elected officials for a modern Metra Electric with:

- A train every 10 - 15 minutes on all the Metra Electric District (MED) lines;
- Integrated MED fares and schedules with Pace and CTA using the Ventra card with a transfer discount; and
- Extended MED service from the south suburbs/ south side to O'Hare Airport via McCormick Place and Union Station with a one-seat ride.

An Underutilized Asset

The MED was built by the Illinois Central as a rapid transit line with level boarding, electrified trains, dedicated tracks and closed stations. It is owned and operated by Metra. The MED is an ideal candidate for Metra to prototype Tap-on /Tap-off use of the Ventra card for fares and transfers.

The MED isn't living up to its potential because non-rush trains are too infrequent, the fares are too high, and its schedules are not tightly integrated with CTA and Pace.



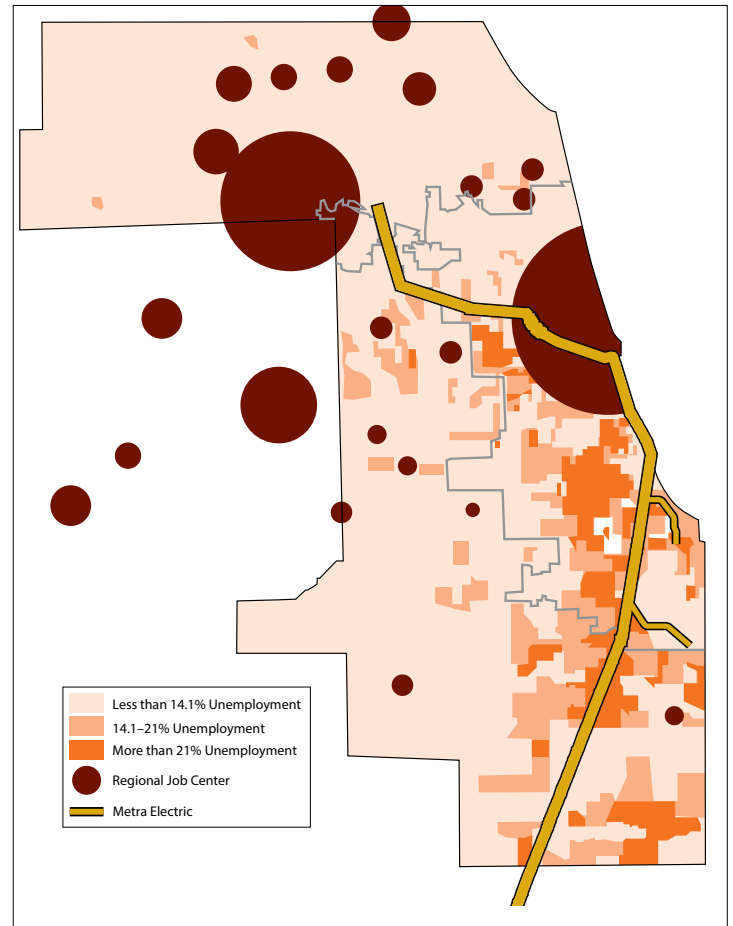
A Step Toward Regional Connections

Cook County suffers from a jobs and housing mismatch resulting in high unemployment and out-migration.

Updating the MED is a step toward regionwide connections, which would:

- Provide frequent service for underserved communities
- Encourage development
- Offer employment connections
- Provide access to O’Hare Airport and international markets
- Provide rapid transit links for University of Chicago, Chicago State University and Governors State University
- Create a one-seat ride from O’Hare to McCormick Place

We are urging Chicago, Cook County and Metra to reinvent the Electric District to better connect families and communities to jobs and economic opportunities.



Fare Integration & Coordinated Buses

By piloting Tap-on /Tap-off use of the Ventra card on the MED, Metra will be able to integrate MED fares and provide transfer discounts with the CTA and Pace. Integrated MED fares and schedules would enhance connecting services and grow ridership for all three agencies on the South Side.

Current Cost Difference to Downtown: \$2.85

CTA 79th Street Bus	Red-line Transfer	Total
\$2.00	\$0.25	\$2.25
CTA 79th Street Bus	Metra Electric Transfer	Total
\$2.00	\$3.10	\$5.10

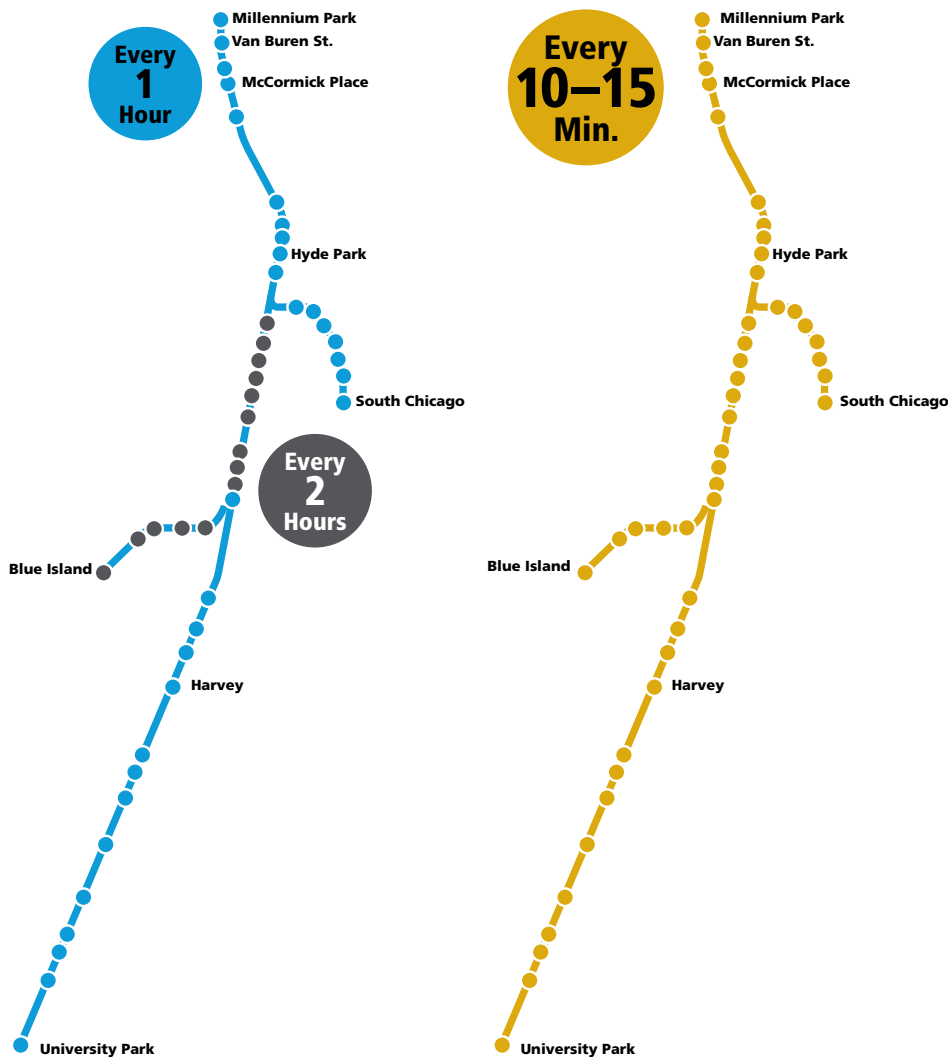


A Train Every 10–15 Minutes

Off-Peak

All Day

Every 10–15 minutes



The trains are too infrequent to meet the needs of urban neighborhoods, especially at the mainline stations served by Blue Island trains.

A train every fifteen minutes should be the minimum frequency at all MED stations between 5:00 am and 1:00 am.

Fewer Train Changes

Today, MED branchline passengers must make a connection to mainline trains during evening hours.

More Suburban Expresses

With more frequent in-city service, MED suburban trains could bypass most city stations, improving service for everyone.

Rehabilitated Stations

It is important to have safe, clean and well-lit stations, underpasses and parking lots.

Metra is rehabbing stations along the line. More funding is needed to accelerate progress, as the 111th St./Pullman station illustrates.





What Needs To Happen

Metra, CTA, Pace, the City of Chicago, and the County need to work together to create a unified plan.

We would like Metra to:

- Dramatically increase frequencies.

- Adopt Ventra card tap-on-tap off and allow fare transfers between Metra, CTA and Pace.

We would like Chicago to:

- Choose “Metra” solution for airport express.

- Partner with Metra to link and upgrade MED and North Central routes.

We would like Cook County to:

- Create an overall plan & coordinate the program.

We would like Springfield and Washington to:

- Provide funding to perform the needed upgrades.

Coalition for a Modern Metra Electric Members

Active Transportation Alliance, Alliance for the South East, Center for Neighborhood Technology, Chicago Hyde Park Village, Coalition for Equitable Community Development, Greater Roseland Chamber of Commerce, Hyde Park Chamber of Commerce, Hyde Park-Kenwood Community Conference, Midwest High Speed Rail Association, South East Chicago Commission

Join us at <http://ModernMetraElectric.org>