

CTA BLUE LINE VISION STUDY



***CTA Blue Line Forest Park Branch  
Feasibility/Vision Study***

***Village of Forest Park Board of  
Directors***

**Tuesday, October 13, 2015**



## Purpose of the study

- **The 55-year old Forest Park Branch is beyond its useful life**
  - Evaluate existing conditions and infrastructure options
  - Evaluate markets and service options
  - Conduct outreach to project stakeholders
  - Identify policy and funding options
  - Coordinate planning with IDOT for I-290 corridor
  - Forest Park Open House, Fall 2015



# Study Area



## CTA Blue Line Vision Study Area



### Legend

- Blue Line/Station Access
- Pink Line/Station Access
- IL Prairie Path Multi-Use Trail
- River
- Green Line/Station Access
- Metra Line/Station
- Study Area Boundary



# Summary of Existing Conditions Assessment

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## Minimal upgrades have been completed as needed

- Special Trackwork: crossovers & switches recently upgraded (except Lathrop)
- Signals: recently upgraded

## Remaining elements beyond useful life and severely worn

- Track: contaminated ballast, deteriorated ties, poor drainage, worn rail
- Stations: over 50 years old, only 4 of 12 are accessible, narrow platforms
- Structures: approaching end of useful life
- Traction Power: substation, cabling, third rail, etc require upgrading
- Communications System: warrants technical improvements
- Maintenance Shop: approaching end of useful life; inadequate track configuration and capacity



# Overall Recommendations



## Complete reconstruction/modernization for the Forest Park branch

- Maintain existing entrance locations
  - Improve customer experience
  - Improve infrastructure
- Improve terminal site



Maintain existing service

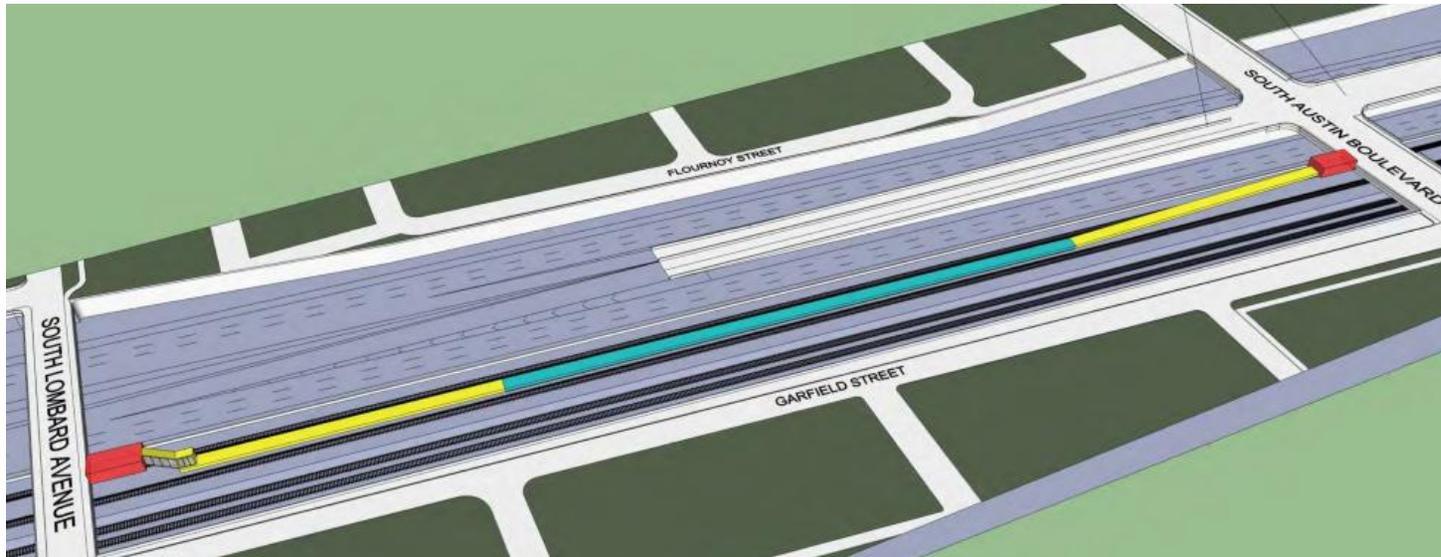
Work with IDOT on corridor improvements



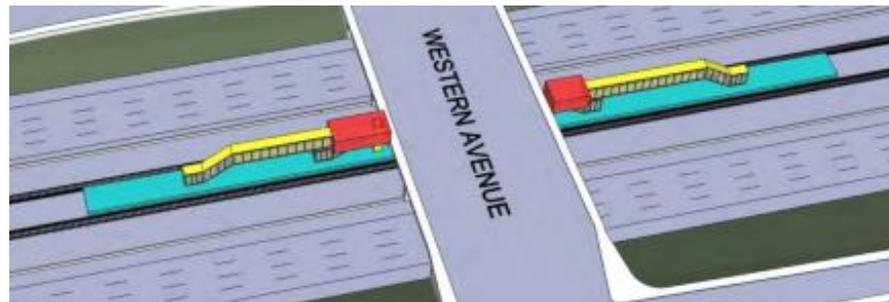
# Maintain Existing Entrance Locations



- Retain double and triple entry station entrances  
Harlem, Oak Park, Austin, Illinois Medical District, Racine, UIC-Halsted



- Dual headhouses possible for single entry stations with bus connections  
Cicero, Pulaski, Western



# Forest Park Terminal Station - Background



- Terminal Station for Blue Line Forest Park Branch
- Station rebuilt in 1982 with ADA access
- Terminal serves Pace Buses #301, #303, #305, #308, #310, #317, #318, #320 and #757 (no CTA routes)
- 1,051 available Park and Ride spaces,
  - 650 spaces on CTA property (397 in main lot, 200 in overflow lot near cemetery, and 53 south of I-290 bridge)
  - 401 on Village of Forest Park property
- Weekday ridership ~3,800 entries/day
- Over 1/3 of weekday riders transfer from bus (37%, March/April 2013)
- Annual 2014 ridership consistent (+0.1%) with 2013 at 1,157,040 entries



# Forest Park Terminal Station - Background



## Pace Bus Daily Boardings and Alightings, January-March 2013.

Pace Route	BOARDINGS															Total
	301	303	305	307	308	310		311		315		317	318	320	757	
	EB	SB	NB	NB	SB	EB	EB	NB	SB	EB	WB	EB	EB	EB	EB	
Austin										6	45					52
Oak Park								30	48							78
Harlem				33	110											142
Forest Park	11	3	36			7	1					3	4	43	5	112
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>384</b>
Pace Route	ALIGHTINGS															Total
	301	303	305	307		308	310	311		315		317	318	320	757	
	EB	SB	NB	NB	SB	EB	EB	NB	SB	EB	WB	EB	EB	EB	EB	
Austin										26	8					34
Oak Park								99	21							120
Harlem				82	50											133
Forest Park	404	129	53			218	169					205	132	8	26	1,345
<b>Total</b>	<b>404</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>1,632</b>

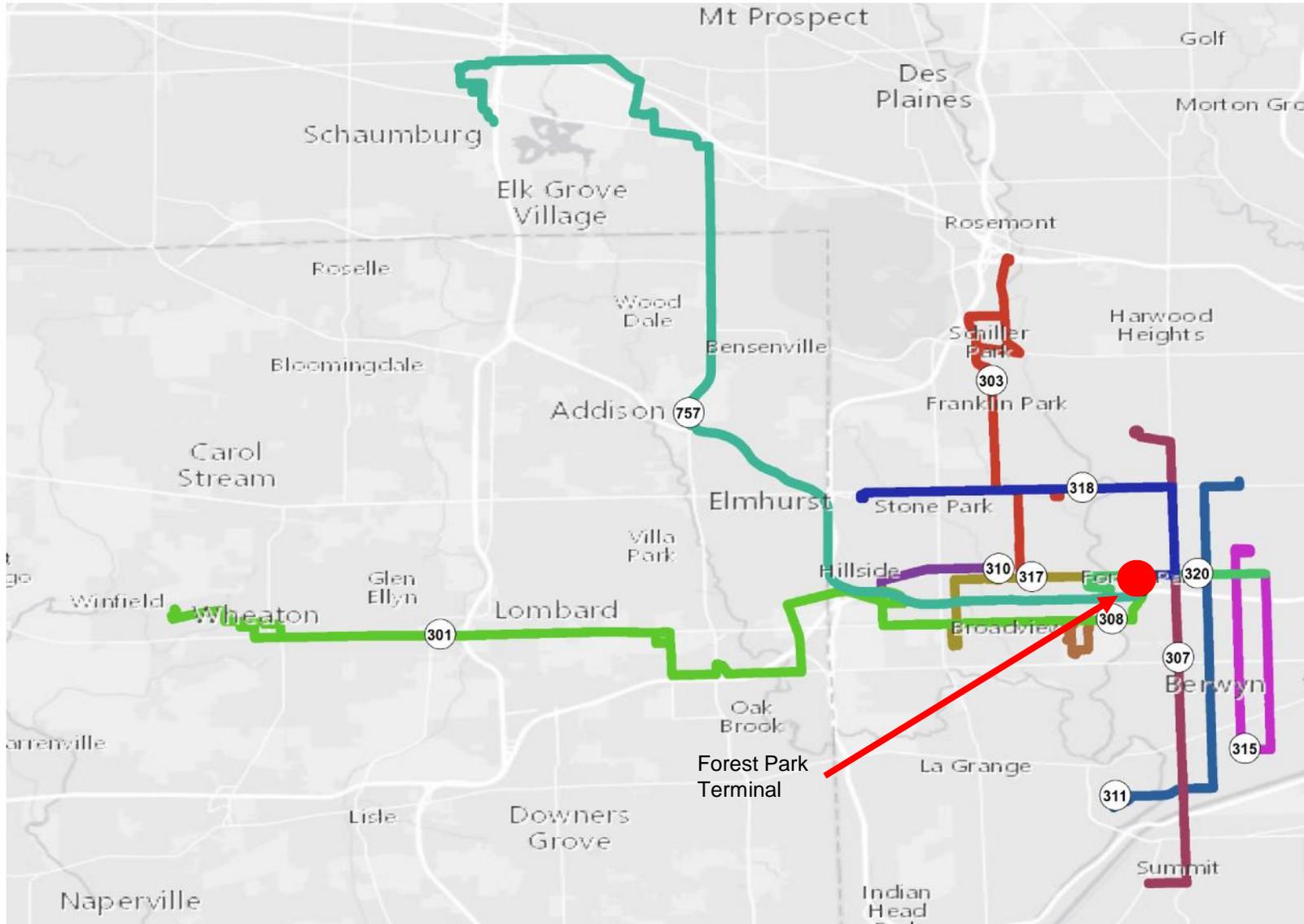
Source: Pace Bus data, January-March 2013. Stations served by Pace Bus only shown. Empty cells (Shaded areas) = No Data.

- 82 percent of Pace Blueline ridership occurs at the Forest Park terminal, where nine of the 12 Pace routes that serve the Blue Line terminate.



# Forest Park Terminal Station – Pace Bus Routes

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# Forest Park Terminal Station - Background



## Forest Park Branch Ridership, Annual Average 2014

Forest Park Blue Line Station	Average Weekday	Average Saturday	Average Sunday	Annual Entries	Market Share
Clinton	3,748	1,539	1,394	1,116,639	11%
UIC-Halsted	5,836	2,215	1,579	1,695,108	17%
Racine	2,474	1,346	979	757,731	8%
Illinois Medical District	3,703	1,230	856	1,057,932	11%
Western	1,737	1,176	912	556,858	6%
Kedzie-Homan	2,353	1,552	1,235	752,306	8%
Pulaski	1,946	1,509	1,259	647,672	7%
Cicero	1,492	1,042	796	480,685	5%
Austin	2,107	1,065	796	638,728	7%
Oak Park	1,882	809	591	556,353	6%
Harlem	1,179	693	528	367,351	4%
Forest Park	3,803	1,968	1,466	1,157,040	12%
<b>Blue Line - Forest Park Total</b>	<b>32,260</b>	<b>16,144</b>	<b>12,391</b>	<b>9,784,403</b>	<b>100%</b>



# Improve Customer Experience: Conceptual Rendering

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Draft Conceptual Rendering

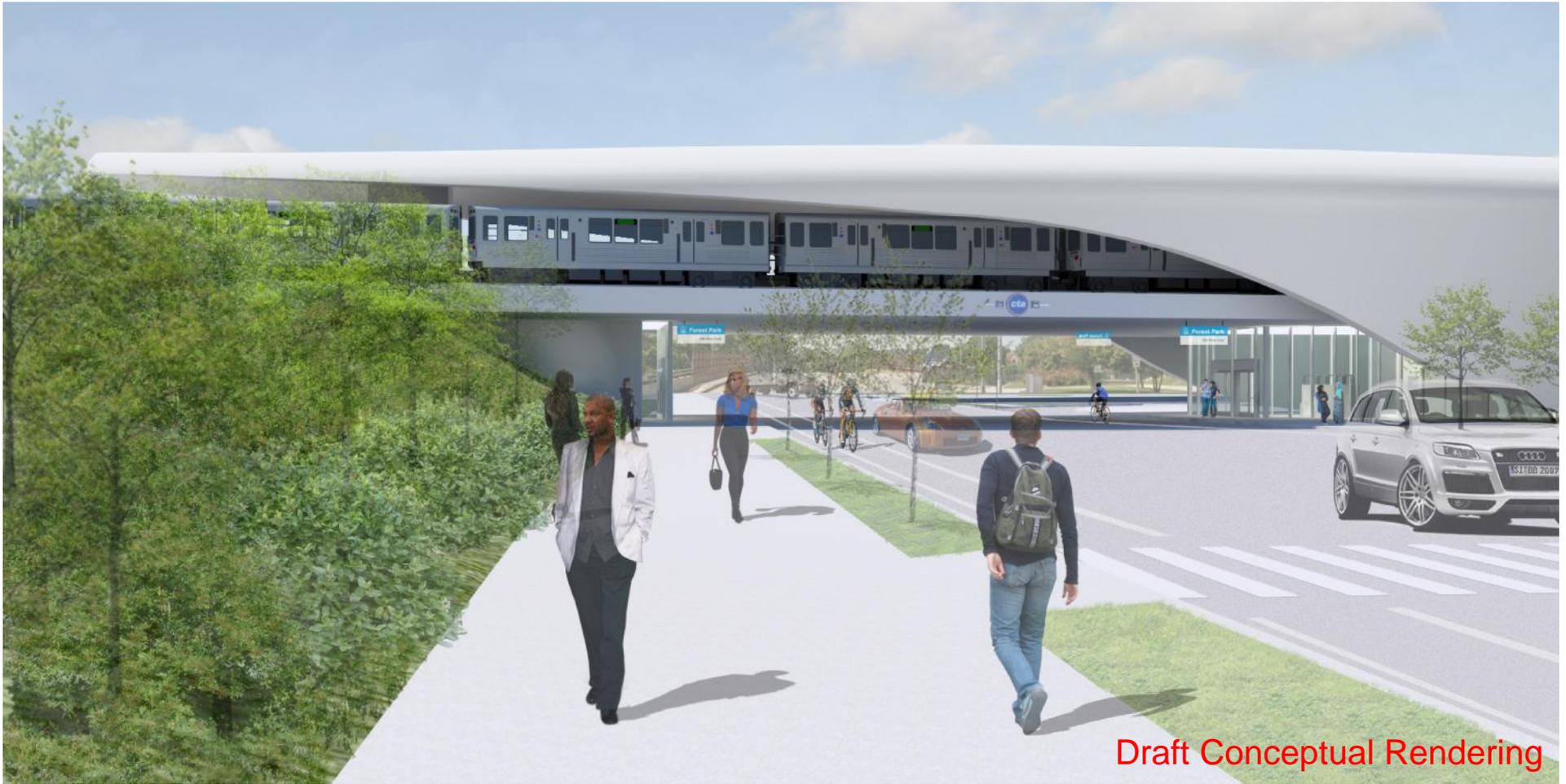


- Wider Platforms

- Shelter/weather protection

# Forest Park Terminal Station – Conceptual Rendering

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# Improve Customer Experience: Conceptual Rendering

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Draft Conceptual Rendering

- ADA accessible
- Landscaping
- Pedestrian crossings/refuges
- Station entrance design and locations
- Reduced noise via station design
- Bike racks
- Lighting
- CTA maintenance & construction



# Forest Park Terminal Station - Improve Terminal Site

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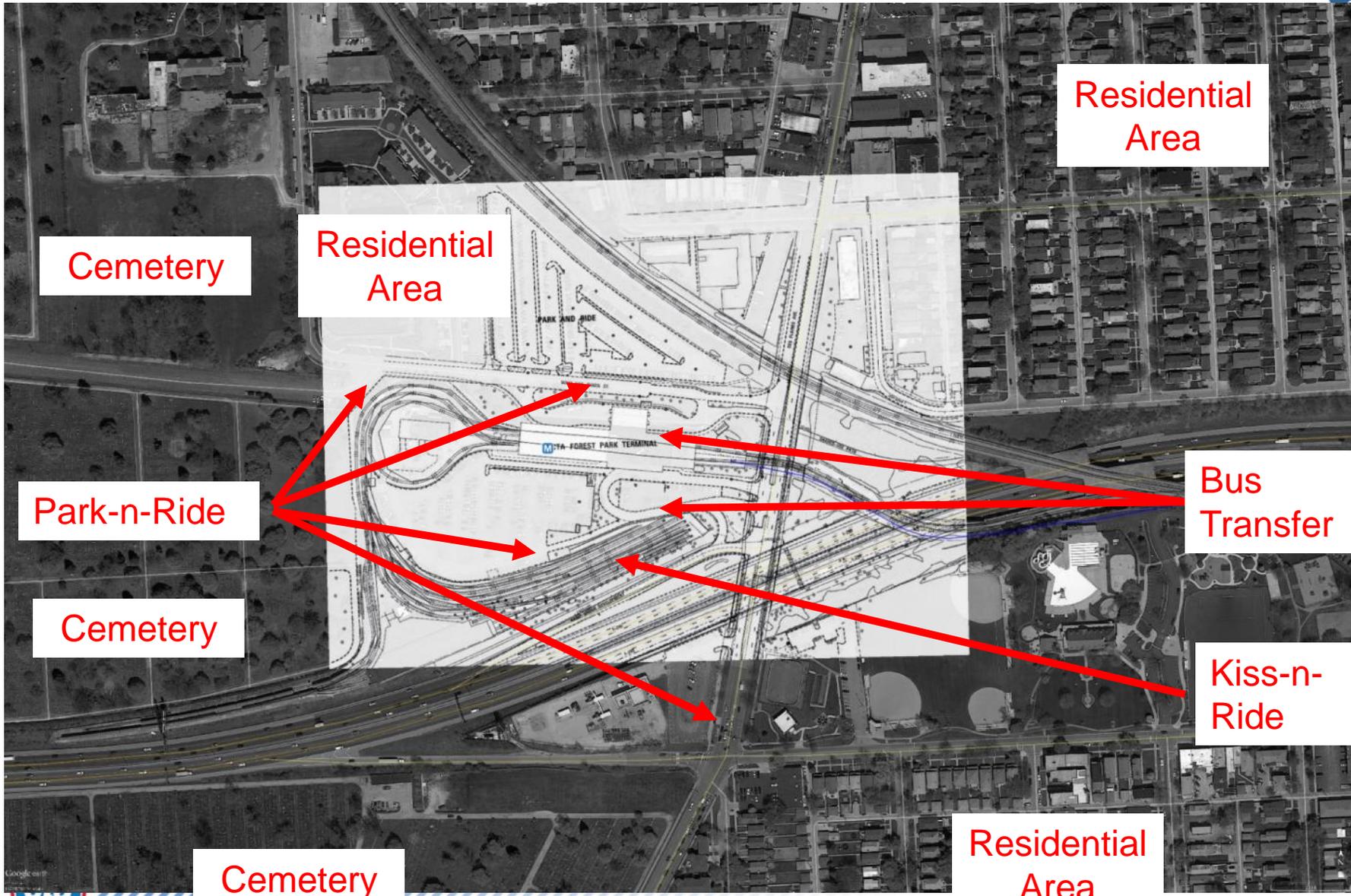
## Redesign Forest Park terminal, yard and shop

- Improve site circulation
  - Bus circulation and transfers
  - Bike and pedestrian access to the terminal
  - Highway and traffic flow around the terminal
- Meet increased rail yard and shop needs
  - Inadequate fleet storage
  - Inadequate shop size
  - Improve yard configuration



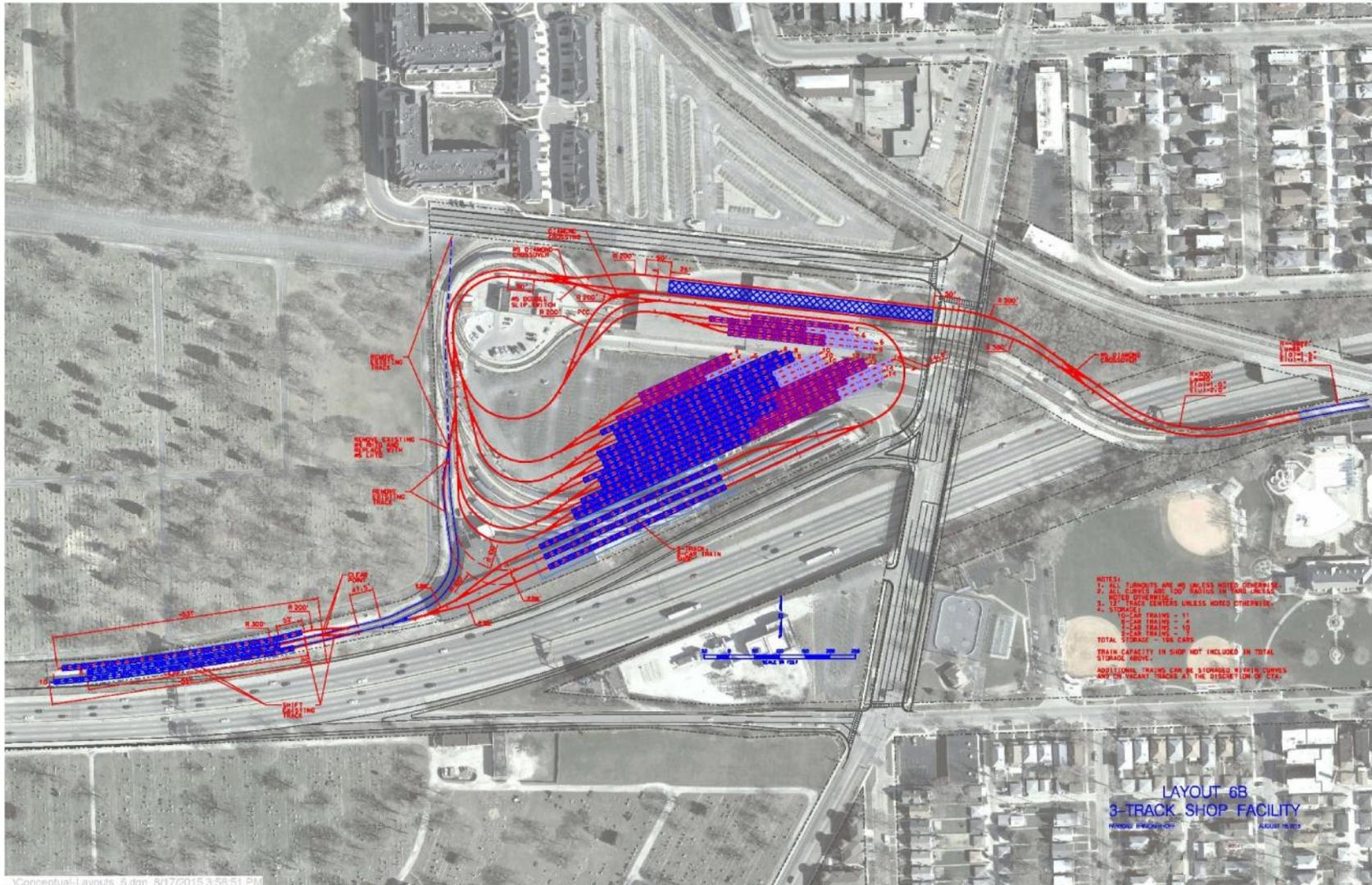
# Forest Park Terminal – Existing Site Plan

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# Forest Park Terminal Station – Proposed Site Plan

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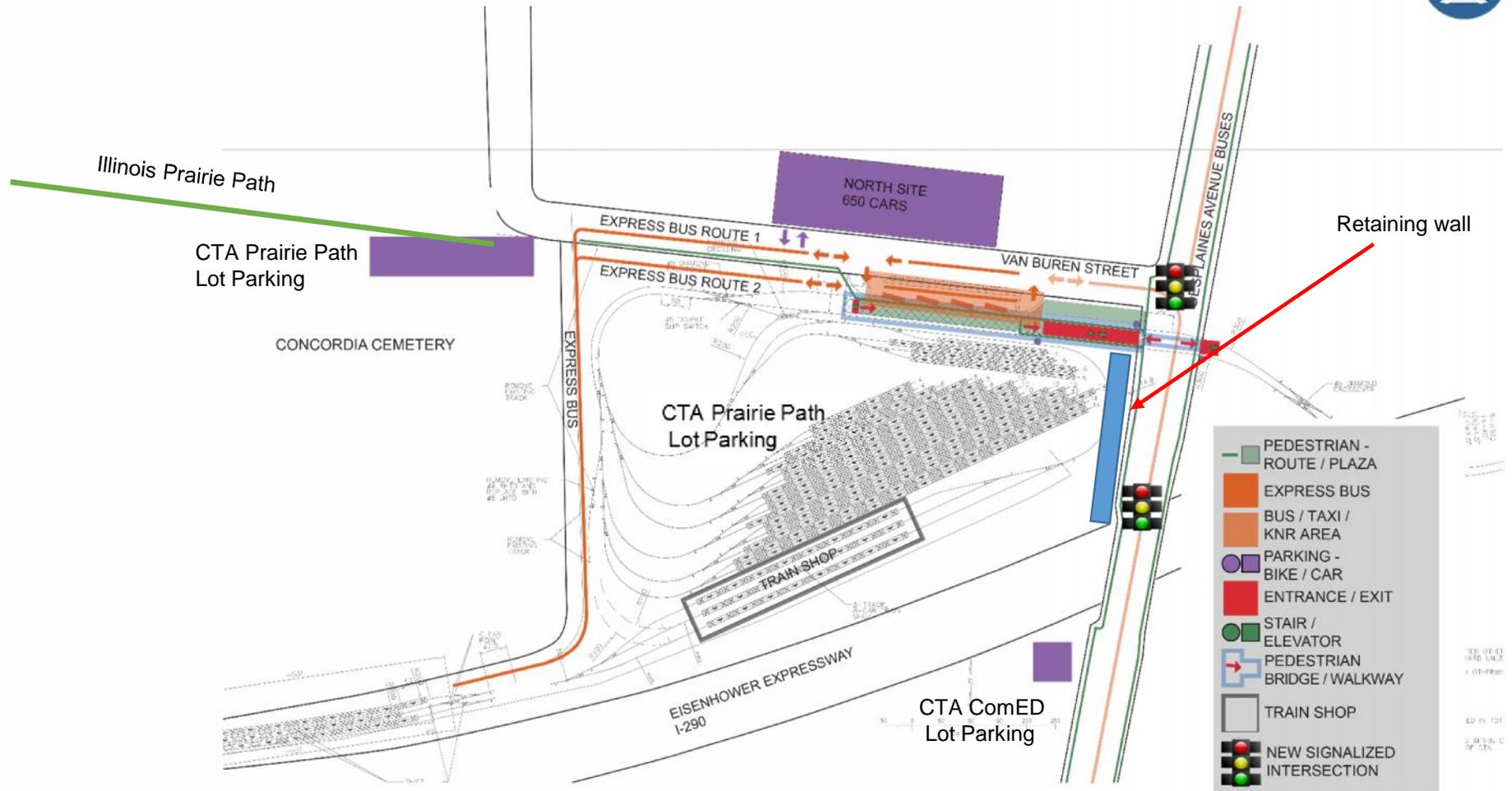


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# CTA Proposal – Forest Park Terminal Station Improvement Plan

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# Forest Park Terminal Station – Improvement Plan

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- **Pros**

- Shop building can be accommodated within the existing footprint of CTA's property
- Express bus route access from I-290 can be accommodated
- New terminal can be constructed north of existing terminal
- Shop and maintenance access can be accommodated via route underneath the new rail yard

- **Cons**

- Parking would need to be relocated off site on north side of Van Buren St. (Identified in Forest Park Comp Plan, no work completed to date)
- Requires realignment of track and new bridge to access the terminal
- Requires shifting of car maintenance to another shop during construction of new shop

- **Outstanding elements**

- Traffic analysis of Van Buren Street
- Environmental obligations to advance planning



# Maintain Existing Service



- **Long-term**

- Bring service speeds up to state-of-good-repair
- No 3rd track or express service
  - Already serves as west side express due to current station spacing
- Remove stations closed in 1970s
- Continue working with Forest Park and local officials up through construction

- **Short-term (immediate)**

- CTA continues to perform interim slow zone maintenance work on branch, which began in spring 2014
  - 5 nights/week, occasional weekends
  - From Clinton to Forest Park, but focusing on west end of branch
  - Continue working with Forest Park and other municipalities





- **Continue to work with IDOT on corridor improvements**
  - Coordinate on overhead bridges to improve stations and access from street
  - Project may be segmented into stations and track
  - Potential for coordinating long term cost savings for both projects
  - Provide transit alternative during highway construction



# Summary of Overall Recommendations



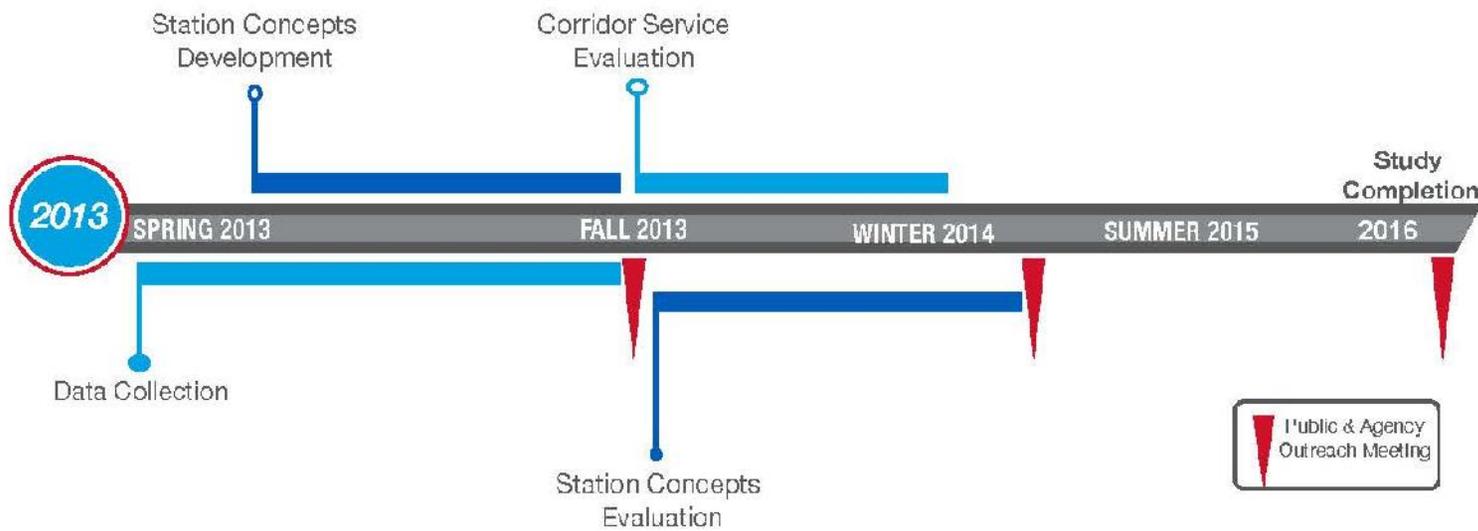
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  - **Maintain existing entrance locations**
  - **Improve customer experience**
  - **Improve infrastructure**
  - **Improve terminal site**
- **Maintain existing service**
- **Work with IDOT on corridor improvements**
- **Work with local municipalities**



# Next Steps



- Present results to public in coordination with IDOT I-290 Public Hearing
- Continue to evaluate funding options and project phasing



# More Information



- **Visit the project web site for more information and updates**

<http://www.transitchicago.com/bluweststudy/>

- **The study team is interested in hearing your ideas and opinions!**

If you have questions or comments about the study or would like to sign up for the mailing list, please write to us at:

Chicago Transit Authority  
Attention: Maria-Teresa Roman, Government and Community  
Relations Officer  
567 West Lake Street  
Chicago, IL 60661

[bluweststudy@transitchicago.com](mailto:bluweststudy@transitchicago.com)



## Blue Line Forest Park Branch Feasibility/Vision Study

This page provides information and invites public input regarding the CTA's Blue Line Forest Park Branch Feasibility/Vision Study, process, and schedule. We invite you to explore the website and provide your comments and recommendations regarding the study through our Get Involved section.

### On this page

- [What's New](#)
- [Project Overview](#)
- [Get Involved](#)
- [More Info](#)
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