

Red and Purple Modernization Phase One Project

Chicago, Illinois

(November 2021)

The Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) is expanding capacity along the Red and Purple heavy rail lines in the 5.6-mile segment of the corridor between the Belmont and Howard stations on the north side of Chicago. The project includes reconstruction of four stations and 1.3 route miles of guideway, a new grade-separated flyover for northbound Brown Line trains at the junction with the Red and Purple lines, installation of a new higher-capacity signal system, power substation upgrades, and purchase of 32 new railcars for expanded service. CTA estimates that the project will increase capacity in the corridor by 15 percent.

The total project cost of the Core Capacity project under the Full Funding Grant Agreement (FFGA) is \$2,066.70 million. The Section 5309 Core Capacity funding share is \$956.61 million.

Status

CTA conducted a vision study for the full 9.6-mile Red and Purple Line corridor between the Belmont and Linden stations in 2009 and 2010 that concluded with CTA's adoption of modernization of the entire corridor as the locally preferred alternative (LPA) in October 2010. The LPA was adopted into the region's fiscally constrained long-range transportation plan in October 2010. The project entered Core Capacity Project Development in November 2013. CTA opted in early 2014 to implement the modernization project in phases. The environmental review process for the Phase One project concluded following the issuance of two Categorical Exclusions (CEs) in July 2015 for the corridor signal improvements and advanced system work, and two Findings of No Significant Impact (FONSIs) in October 2015 for the flyover bypass and station reconstruction work. FTA approved the Phase One project into Core Capacity Engineering in December 2015. CTA and FTA signed an FFGA in January 2017, with projected completion date of October 2027. All contracts have been awarded and the project is about 40 percent complete.

Section 3005 of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act authorized FTA to award Federal major capital investment funds for final design and construction of the Red and Purple Modernization Phase One Project. Through FY 2021, Congress has appropriated \$691.13 million in Section 5309 Core Capacity funds for the project.

Reported in Year of Expenditure Dollars

Source of Funds	Total Funding (\$million)	Appropriations to Date
Federal:		
Section 5309 Core Capacity	\$956.61	\$691.13 million in total appropriations through FY 2021
Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Funds	\$115.73	
Local:		
CTA Sales Tax Bonds and Cash	\$384.30	
Transit Tax-Increment Financing (TIF) District Bonds and Revenues	\$602.26	
Bryn Mawr TIF District Revenues	\$7.80	
Total:	\$2,066.70	

NOTES: The Source of Funds and Total Funding numbers are as established at the signing of the FFGA. The sum of the figures may differ from the total as listed due to rounding.

Red and Purple Modernization Phase One Project Map

