

Changes coming to Route 59 train station parking lot



This parking lot on Aurora's side of the Route 59 train station will get reworked this spring and summer. (Steve Lord / The Beacon-News)

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MARCH 7, 2016, 5:44 PM

Construction is due to start soon on changes to the parking lot on [Aurora's](#) side of the commuter train station on Route 59.

City officials have said the project will connect nearby residential developments and outlying commercial areas to the station more smoothly and reduce traffic congestion entering and exiting the parking lot.

The changes include new driveways into the lot, a new [Pace bus](#) staging area and an increase in the number of parking spaces available.

Three new driveways will be added into the lot from Meridian Lake Drive, and a traffic signal will be added at Meridian Lake Drive and Station Boulevard.

The parking lot will be reconfigured to a north-south orientation, increasing the parking lot's capacity by about 400 new parking spaces. City officials expect the new orientation to also improve pedestrian, vehicle and bus access into and out of the station.

The Pace bus staging area will be relocated to a safer, dedicated location, city officials said. Addition of a box culvert at the Waubonsie Creek crossing will make travel easier for pedestrians, according to the city.

Ultimately, the project also includes new safety features, including new parking lot lighting and security cameras.

The project will be done in phases, beginning on the east side of the parking lot and progressing to the west.

Construction is weather dependent, but major work is expected to be complete by the end of 2016. The addition of new security cameras and landscaping may happen in 2017.

The train platform will be open for the entire duration of construction.

Commuters, especially those who park in the Aurora lot, are urged to plan for slightly longer commutes once construction begins, city officials said. They are encouraged to seek alternate parking and to use Pace Park-n-Ride facilities, if possible, officials said.

Temporary on-street parking will be available on Meridian Lake Drive and Station Boulevard in specific areas where indicated. Commuters parking outside of designated areas will be ticketed, city officials said. Daily and monthly parking fees within the parking lot are still required.

The Metra train station on Route 59 has the highest ridership of any of the 27 stations on Metra's Burlington Northern-Santa Fe rail line, with all of its 2,200 parking spaces used each weekday.

More than 5,800 riders use the station each weekday, according to city officials.

The project is supported by federal funds through the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning's Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement grant program.

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A version of this article appeared in print on March 09, 2016, in the News section of the Chicago Tribune with the headline "Route 59 train station lot work to begin soon - Project designed to link nearby areas and improve traffic flow, Aurora officials say" — Today's paper | [Subscribe](#)