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Sept. 29--The CTA is moving forward on plans for the long-discussed extension of the Red Line to 130th Street, which will include a two-month period of public comment.

The next steps are part of a series of requirements before funding can be sought for the project and construction could begin.

But if all goes as the transit agency hopes, the Red Line could run from Howard to 130th as early as 2026, with construction beginning in 2022, according to CTA spokeswoman Tammy Chase. The \$2.3 billion project would fill in what activists have called a "transit desert" on the city's Far South Side, as well as suburban Riverdale.

"This is a great opportunity that should have happened 50 years ago, but I'm glad to see it's going to happen now," said Cheryl Johnson, executive director of People for Community Recovery, a nonprofit environmental organization. "Transportation is a major hurdle for people who have to go far north to work and school."

The city has not extended an "L" line since the Orange Line opened in 1993. The proposed 5.3-mile Red Line extension would have four new stations near 103rd Street, 111th Street, Michigan Avenue and 130th Street, and would include bus and parking facilities.

"This will be a transformational project," Chase said.

The CTA plans to publish a draft environmental impact study next Thursday, and then begin a period of public comments through Nov. 30, including a public hearing Nov. 1 at a yet-to-be determined location. The agency also is notifying owners of 248 properties, with 101 residential and 28 commercial buildings, which the CTA may need to acquire for the project, Chase said.

The actual number of properties needed depends on where the CTA will lay the rails. Two years ago, the CTA narrowed the potential Red Line alternatives to one. This proposal would continue the line along I-57

CTA moves forward on planned Red Line extension to Far South Side

to 99th Street, then run either to the east or the west of the Union Pacific rail tracks to about 118th Street, and then to 130th west of the South Shore line.

The extension is part of the CTA's "Red Ahead" planning for the system's busiest line, which has included the \$425 million reconstruction of the Red Line South in 2013, the ongoing construction of the new 95th Street terminal and the Wilson Station renovation.

Based on public feedback, environmental review and funding availability for additional engineering, the CTA plans to announce the preferred option for the extension next year and publish a final environmental impact study in 2018.

The agency could then go after federal and local funds. New legislation passed this summer allows a special taxing district to be created to help pay for the extension, as well as for other major transit projects such as the Red-Purple Line modernization project on the North Side.

The South Side extension was part of the "Go to 2040" plan released in 2010 by the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, which is responsible for land-use and transportation planning in the seven-county Chicago area.

Kyle Whitehead of the Active Transportation Alliance, which supports safe walking, biking and transit, said that the extension could save Far South Side residents more than 20 minutes going downtown.

"Altgeld Gardens and the Riverdale area are really isolated in terms of public transportation," said Whitehead, the alliance's government relations director. "It boosts job access and access to things around the city for a community that desperately needs access, and there's also great economic development potential around these stations."

Chase said that the option for the Red Line extension that runs on the east side of the Union Pacific tracks would affect more residential buildings, while the west side option would affect commercial buildings. "You have to look at what the community wants," Chase said.

Johnson said she realizes there will be some "mixed feelings" about the project because of the loss of buildings along the route. But she said the development is "greatly needed," and she hopes the

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displacement will be fair and equitable.

"We have to look forward to the future, for economic opportunity," Johnson said.

Andrea Reed of the Greater Roseland Chamber of Commerce said she is "glad and forlorn at the same time" at hearing that the project was proceeding -- but may not be finished for another 10 years.

"We had hoped for 2016 back when we started talking about this in 2009," said Reed, whose organization also favors turning the Metra Electric District Line into a rapid -transit line, with more frequent stops.

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NEWS

CA: BART Warns of Major Delays Due to Equipment Problem, Track Closure

September 18, 2016

An equipment problem at the 16th Street Mission BART station in San Francisco, coupled with a scheduled service closure between Glen Park and Daly City, created major delays Saturday morning throughout the transit system.

NEWS

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LA: Streetcar Hops Rails on New St. Claude Line; RTA Still Investigating Cause

October 5, 2016

The streetcar shifted off the tracks as it turned on North Rampart and Canal streets, as indicated by imprints of streetcar wheels on the pavement adjacent to the track.

NEWS

NC: Commissioners Back NCCU-Area Proposed Light Rail Site

October 5, 2016

By day, Faye Calhoun is an associate director for research at N.C. Central University, but on Tuesday, Calhoun spoke as a resident at the Durham County Commissioners' meeting in support of adding a future light rail transit station near the university.

CA: Petaluma Joins List of Cities Exploring SMART 'Quiet Zones'

October 5, 2016

Faced with numerous noise complaints from the public, the city of Petaluma this week joined the growing list of North Bay cities exploring the creation of "quiet zones" along the SMART rail corridor.

NEWS

CA: San Rafael, Novato Grapple with SMART Quiet Zones

October 5, 2016

San Rafael is not quite yet ready to help Novato with a "quiet zone" as commuter rail service readies to launch, fearing its own residents could be blasted by horns.

NEWS

NJ: NJ Transit Adds Trains to Address Commuter Overcrowding Complaints

October 5, 2016

Commuters who've complained about overcrowded trains on Bergen County rail lines, which were displaced from the Hoboken Terminal

NEWS

MN: Automatic Train Braking Coming to Minnesota

October 5, 2016

A deadly trash crash in New Jersey last week that injured more than 100 people may have been prevented by an automatic braking system that's being implemented along some rail lines across the nation, including in Minnesota, but later than originally...

NEWS

TX: Transit Planners Juggle Costs for Proposed Dallas Subway

October 5, 2016

Dallas transit planners are debating how much more subway transit the city should have as suburban communities seek the same construction money for a Cotton Belt rail line.

PRESS RELEASE

after last week's train crash, are getting relief from NJ Transit.

PRESS RELEASE

The French Government and Alstom Present Plan to Maintain Railway and Industrial Activities on Belfort Site

October 5, 2016

From ALSTOM TRANSPORT

Christophe Sirugue, Minister of State for the Industry and Henri Poupart-Lafarge, Alstom chairman and CEO, recently presented in Belfort a plan to maintain the railway and industrial activities on Belfort site.

Customer Notice Regarding NJ Transit Alternate Service Plan

October 5, 2016

From NEW JERSEY TRANSIT (NJ TRANSIT)

Statement for New Jersey Transit (NJ Transit): We are grateful to all of our customers for your patience and support during this difficult time. Nearly one week ago, tragedy struck at Hoboken Terminal when one of our customers lost her...

PRESS RELEASE

Connecticut Rail and Bus Fare Increases to Take Effect in December

October 5, 2016

From CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (CTDOT)

Fare increases on Connecticut's rail and bus systems will take effect in December, Connecticut Department of Transportation Commissioner James P. Redeker has announced.

PRESS RELEASE

Governor Cuomo Announces New Payment Options for MTA eTix

October 5, 2016

From METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (NY MTA)

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo recently announced the addition of Apple Pay and Masterpass digital wallet technology to MTA eTix, the mobile ticketing app that enables Metro-North Railroad and Long Island Rail Road customers to purchase their tickets anywhere,

PRESS RELEASE



APEM Announces New Keylock Switch Series Options

October 4, 2016

From APEM COMPONENTS INC.

PRESS RELEASE



PRESS RELEASE

Cubic Wins \$35.5M Contract to Supply Fare Collection Equipment for Singapore Future Rail Line

October 4, 2016

From CUBIC TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS

Cubic Corporation recently announced that a consortium of its subsidiaries, Cubic Transportation Systems (Australia) Pty Limited and Cubic Technologies Singapore (C-Tech) Pte. Ltd., signed a contract with the Land Transport Authority (LTA).

NEWS

NJ: Hoboken Train Crash Victims Tell NJ Transit They Plan to Sue

October 4, 2016

A first wave of Hoboken train crash victims has come forward to put NJ Transit on notice they plan to file lawsuits against the agency for their injuries.

NEWS

France: Vending Machines Filled with Free Short Stories

CTA moves forward on planned Red Line extension to Far South Side

In addition to the nickel plated version, the LK series keylock is also available in a sleek, black overmolded barrel shutter and key.

PRESS RELEASE

Hundreds Gather for L.A. Metro's 1st Annual Older Adult Transportation Expo

October 4, 2016

From LOS ANGELES COUNTY METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (METRO)

Nearly 300 attended Metro's milestone 1st Annual Older Adult Transportation Expo today to learn about discounted fares and special programs to make mobility more accessible to older adults.

NEWS

CA: Metrolink Sues South Korean Maker

Maser Consulting Hires Francis J. Miller, III, P.E. to Lead Rail Engineering Services

October 4, 2016

From MASER CONSULTING, P.A.

Maser Consulting P.A. recently announced that it has hired Francis J. Miller, III, P.E. to lead its rail engineering service division.

NEWS

LA: Streetcar Derails Along New Rampart-St. Claude Line

October 4, 2016

The new Rampart-St. Claude streetcar line experienced its first mishap when a streetcar derailed Tuesday morning.

NEWS

CA: Lawmakers Push for BART Link to Central Valley ACE Trains

October 4, 2016

Some East Bay and Central Valley politicians have begun a push to link BART to ACE Train Service, which runs from Stockton to San Jose.

NEWS

Introduced in French Train Stations

October 4, 2016

Train stations in France have installed vending machines which print unique short stories for passengers to enjoy while they wait, at no cost.

Over Alleged 'Defective' Train Parts

October 4, 2016

Metrolink is suing the South Korean manufacturer of its passenger "cab cars," like the one that derailed near Oxnard last year, alleging they had faulty parts that failed to keep trains on the track in an accident.

PRESS RELEASE

Bombardier Wins Fleet Maintenance Contract in California

October 4, 2016

From BOMBARDIER TRANSPORTATION

Bombardier Transportation recently announced that it has signed a new contract with the Southern California Regional Rail Authority (SCRRA) of Los Angeles, California to provide eight years of maintenance services for SCRRA's Metrolink commuter rail...

PRESS RELEASE

Alstom Delivers the First Cross-Border Citadis Between Strasbourg and Kehl

October 4, 2016

From ALSTOM TRANSPORT

DC: Lawmakers to Consider New Metro Oversight Board

October 4, 2016

The D.C. Council is set to consider a measure that would create a federally mandated safety oversight commission for Metro's subway in partnership with Maryland and Virginia.

NEWS

HI: HART Asks for More Time in \$8.6B Interim Plan to FTA

October 4, 2016

The Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation is asking for more time to find the funds to get rail all the way to Ala Moana.

PRESS RELEASE



MTS Trolley Cars Make Final Trip to a New Home at TSA Training Facility

October 4, 2016

Alstom has delivered the first of the new Citadis trams for Strasbourg, less than two years after signing a framework agreement with the Strasbourg transport company CTS (Compagnie des Transports Strasbourgeois) for the supply of 50 trams.

From METROPOLITAN TRANSIT SYSTEM (MTS)
Two of the original light rail vehicles that have been serving San Diego patrons of Metropolitan Transit System's Trolley were loaded onto flatbed trucks for their final journey to San Antonio, Texas.

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