

Chicago Transit Authority

# GREEN LINE II

The  
Second  
Century



**Last year, the South Side elevated lines celebrated their 100th anniversary, serving the residents of Chicago with quality rapid transit. This year, the Lake Street line observes its centennial. Both lines continue to provide an integral service to the city's south and west sides and several western suburbs, but neither has ever been modernized to reflect current passenger needs.**

**The CTA Board has endorsed a plan that will close the entire Green Line (Lake-Englewood-Jackson Park) for a total renovation and modernization. These are our oldest elevated lines, and are definitely in need of rehabilitation. Patchwork repairs are no longer adequate. Our new Green Line will help to improve the economic vitality of the neighborhoods it serves, and will meet all accessibility requirements for our disabled riders.**

**Q & A This question and answer brochure is designed to give you, our passengers, information about the Green Line reconstruction project as it relates to your daily lives.**

**Q**  
**A**

## Why close the line and rebuild it?

The alternatives were: 1) Tearing it down. This would leave a major gap in the city's transit system. It would also impose a debt on the CTA. We would have to repay the federal government money invested in the line previously. 2) Rebuild while operating. This would take 6 to 8 years and cost \$800 million or more. CTA does not have that kind of money. 3) Rebuild while closed. This is the chosen method and will take 2 years to reconstruct, cost \$300 million and extend the life of the Green Line by 40 plus years (versus 15 years if we rebuild while operating).

**Q**  
**A**

## Where is CTA getting the money to rebuild the Green Line?

The money presently exists in federal, state and RTA grants; *no new money is needed for this project*. About \$100 million of the allotted construction budget will be spent on stations and other passenger facilities. The remainder will be spent on track and structure rebuilding.

**Q** How long will the Green Line be closed?

**A** After closure, the reconstruction project will take two years, representing one of the largest public works projects on the west and south sides of Chicago.

**Q** Will the project employ local labor?

**A** We expect the renovation project, through the hiring of construction workers and employees in support industries to employ close to 7,000 individuals. The Green Line Task Force will work with communities and local contractors to encourage local participation.

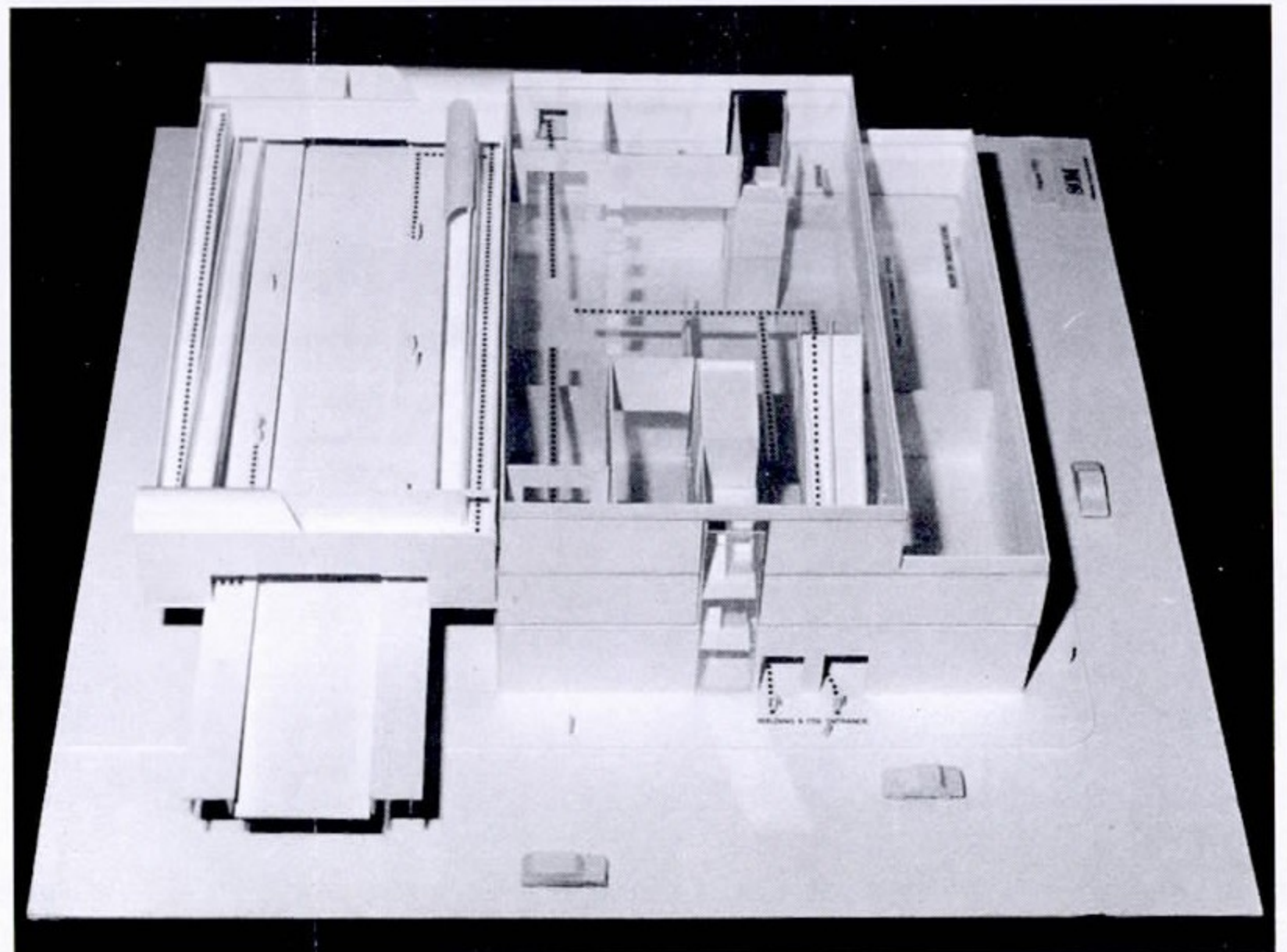
Will I still be able to board the train at my current station when reconstruction is completed?

**Q**  
**A** CTA is working with community groups to determine the best locations for new stations. They will be located so as to reduce overall travel times, respond to the ADA mandates on accessible bus and rail stations, and restore the "rapid" to rapid transit. Certain stations will be state-of-the-art, housing local businesses and possibly police beat representatives and day care centers.

**Q** Will the new stations meet accessibility requirements?

**A** Reconstructed stations will be fully accessible to the disabled.

Future stations along the Green Line could include state-of-the-art structures like this model envisioned by an architect working on plans for the project.



**Q** What improvements are planned other than new stations?

**A** There are more benefits than just reduced travel times. Reliability will be enhanced through modernization, and trains used on the new Green Line will be extensively rehabilitated during the construction period. New tracks and switches will improve the ride meaning better reliability in foul weather.

**Q** How will I get to my destination once the Green Line closes?

**A** During the two year reconstruction period, Green Line riders will have several alternatives: 1) Special express bus service will be operating between all Lake-Englewood-Jackson Park stations. These buses will carry special Green Line destination signs, and offer service at all times; 2) For passengers wishing to utilize other rail lines, extra trains will be added to both the Dan Ryan and Congress lines to accommodate Green Line riders. Some existing bus routes will be extended to feed into these lines.

**How can I get more information on the project and my alternatives?**

**Q**  
**A**

Throughout the reconstruction project, we will be here to answer your questions about the project and alternate service. You may call **(708) 366-1261** during normal business hours and we will be happy to answer your questions. If you need information about alternate service during other times, you may telephone the RTA Travel Information Center at **(312) 836-7000** or **(708) 836-7000**. We are aware of the temporary inconvenience this project will cause you. There will be a mobile command center that will visit each section of the Green Line regularly to exchange information. We are *committed* to making the alternative service as convenient as possible throughout the reconstruction.

**Will there be updates to keep Green Line passengers aware of the construction progress?**

**Q**  
**A**

We will ensure that passengers, adjacent residents and businesses receive periodic project updates. To receive updates on the construction, please telephone **(708) 366-1261** and give us your name and address. We will mail you periodic updates on our status and progress.

# A Century of Transit Service



Steam was still the power of choice and necessity for 'L' s when crews posed aboard a train at Oakley before the opening of the Lake Street Elevated Railroad in 1893.



The Chicago & South Side Rapid Transit Railroad extended the city's first 'L' service above 63rd Street to Jackson Park for the World's Columbian Exposition in 1893.



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