

May 7, 2026, 2:00 PM
County Board Conference Room
Administration Building, 667 Ware Rd., Woodstock, IL 60098

Pages

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
 - 1.a Roll Call
 - 1.b Introductions
2. **MINUTES APPROVAL**
 - 2.a Approval of February 05, 2026 minutes 2
Action Requested: Approval of minutes
3. **PUBLIC COMMENT**
4. **OLD BUSINESS**
 - 4.a MCRide Program Update 4
MCDOT will give an update on ridership in Q1 of 2026 as well as a summary of a recent MCP event about NITA.
 - 4.b Service Partner Updates
 - 4.b.1 RTA Update
 - 4.b.2 Pace Bus Update
 - 4.b.3 Metra Update 7
5. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - 5.a Pace Service Planning Presentation
Pace's Chief Planning officer Erik Llewellyn will discuss Pace's Planning work, the factors that play into supporting transit when it comes to land use as well as other items.
6. **ADJOURNMENT**

Next Meeting Date: August 06, 2026



McHenry County
Public Transportation Advisory Committee -
Public Meeting
MINUTES

February 5, 2026, 2:00 PM
Division of Transportation - Main Conference Room
16111 Nelson Rd., Woodstock, IL 60098

Members Present: Riley, Schrempf, Nick Hammonds, Cody Sheriff, Talia Koronkiewicz, Gary Barla

Members Absent: Peschke

Full comments on all agenda items are included in the video recording of this meeting.

1. CALL TO ORDER

- 1.1 Roll Call
- 1.2 Introductions

2. MINUTES APPROVAL

- 2.1 Minutes for November 06, 2025

Mover: Tom Riley
Second: Sarah Schrempf

Approved by Voice

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

4. OLD BUSINESS

- 4.1 MCRide Program Update

Ms. Valenzuela Ruiz gave an update on the MCRide and Connect programs activity since the last meeting. Mr. Duffin reminded the committee of the upcoming fare changes for MCRide and Connect. MCRide will be changing its fare structure and Connect will be decreasing its voucher by \$1. The changes will be implemented March 01, 2026. Mr. Hennings commented on the future of MCRide and Connect ridership.

- 4.2 Service Partner Updates

- 4.2.a RTA Update

Ms. Peterson provided an update to the committee. The RTA has increased ridership over the last year, they updated their fare portal, and the Access Pilot Program has been extended until December 31, 2026.

4.2.b Pace Bus Update

Mr. Gallagher provided an update to the committee. Pace is preparing for when NITA comes into affect in June. They will move forward with their ReVision program and will soon be looking for feedback on their plans. They are planning on rolling out service improvements throughout the year, though none are currently planned in McHenry County. Mr. Gallagher explained Pace's VanPool program and their upcoming VanGo program.

Mr. Seeskin gave a service data update from the last quarter.

4.2.c Metra Update

No one from Metra was present to provide an update.

5. NEW BUSINESS

No new business was discussed.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Mover: Tom Riley

Seconder:

To adjourn the meeting

Approved by Voice

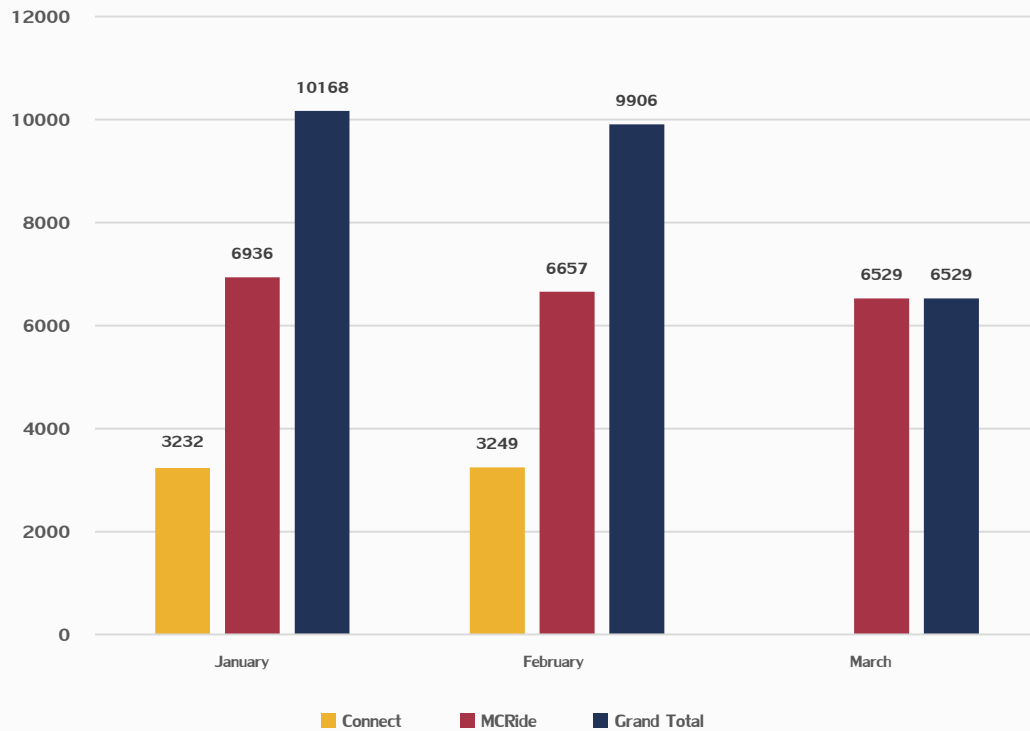


MCDOT TRANSIT UPDATE

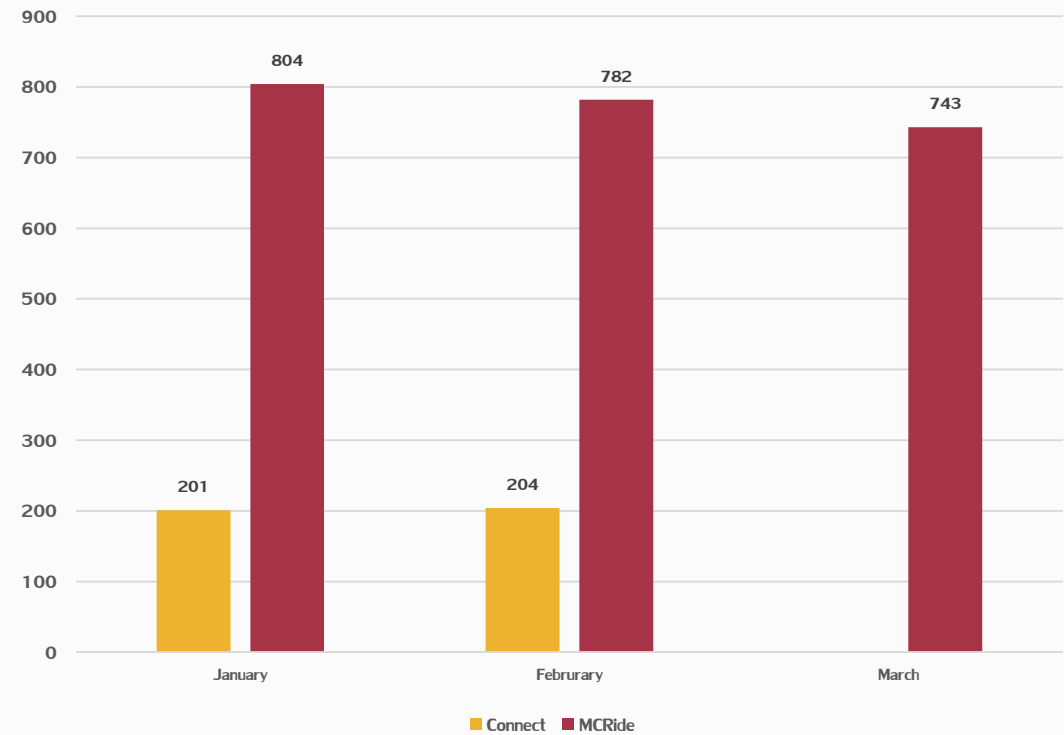
January to March 2026

Trip Data

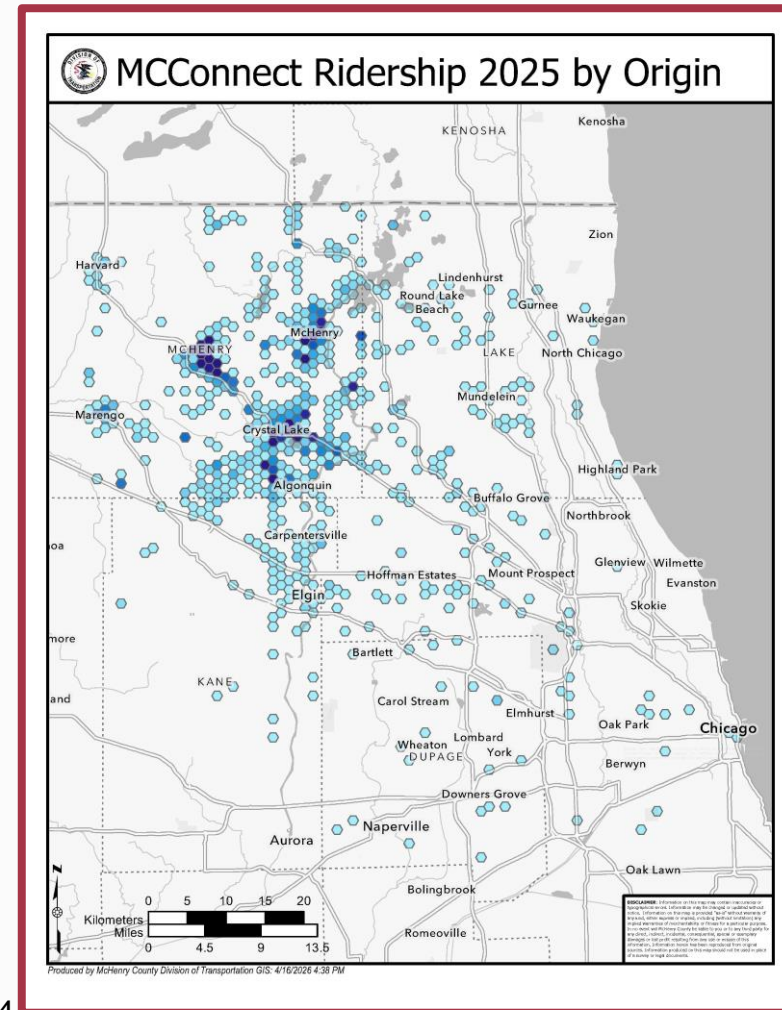
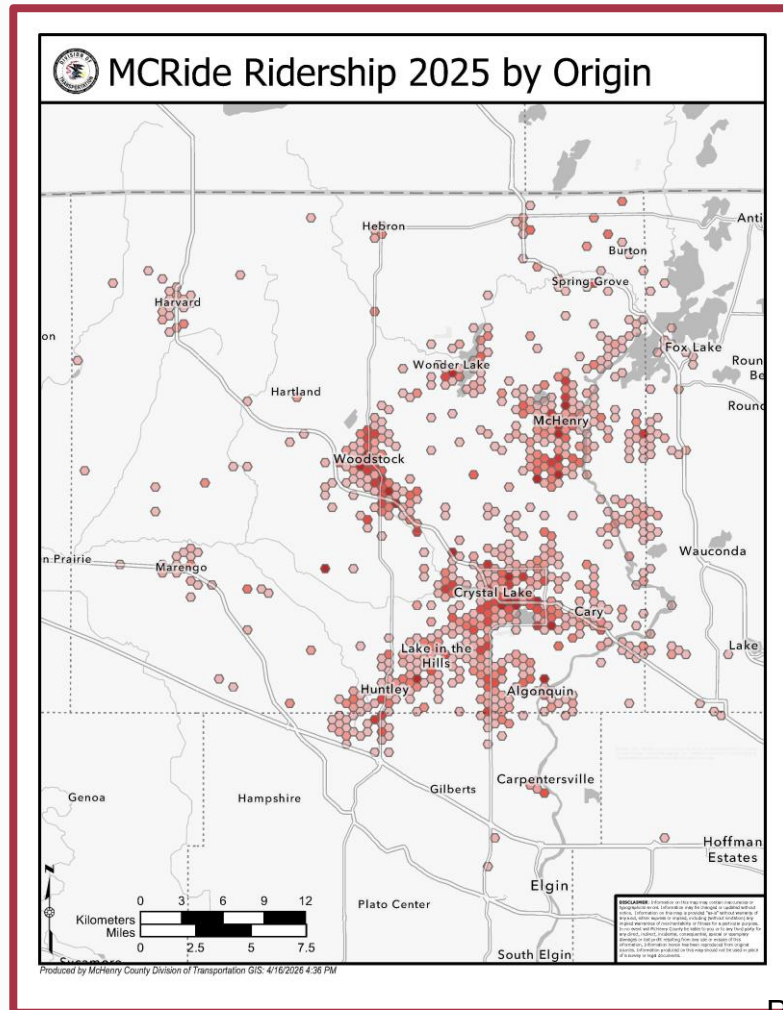
Total Trips in Q1



Total Distinct Riders in Q1



Heat Maps





News Release
Metra Media Relations: 312.322.6776

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Metra unveils 2026 construction program

Improvements planned at 20 stations and 22 crossings

CHICAGO (April 8, 2026) – Metra and its railroad and municipal partners are taking on a wide variety of projects during the 2026 construction season, including improvements to 20 stations, replacement of 22 grade crossings, and three major tie replacement projects.

In addition to new projects, progress continues to be made on a multiyear project to upgrade track, electrical and signal systems on the **Metra Electric Line** to accommodate the expansion of service on the South Shore Line. The 2026 construction program also includes numerous smaller infrastructure improvements across Metra’s 11 lines, ensuring Metra customers continue to enjoy safe and reliable service.

“We plan to take full advantage of the construction season and available funding to address projects across the railroad,” said Metra CEO/Executive Director Jim Derwinski. “Metra is grateful for the significant financial support we have received in recent years to address a backlog of critical capital projects. However, infrastructure maintenance is an ongoing need, and that’s why we will continue to work with our funding and governance partners to identify, plan, and carry out projects that support our system today and in the future.”

Work is being performed by Metra’s in-house crews, employees of Metra’s freight partners as well as private contractors. Metra is also contributing funds for station repairs and upgrades that will be performed by a municipality or its contractors.

In Metra’s 2026 capital program, \$32.3 million is allocated for station and parking improvements, \$37.7 million for track maintenance, \$22.3 million for bridge projects, \$5.2 million for rail crossing replacements, and \$59.1 million for signal, electrical and communications maintenance and upgrades. Funding for some of the projects included in this release was allocated in prior years’ capital programs or came from outside sources, including municipalities and Metra’s freight partners.

Timing of the projects listed below may change and, when warranted, projects may be added to or removed from this list. A complete list of planned projects on Metra-controlled and BNSF lines is attached to this release. A comprehensive list of projects planned on the three lines owned by Union Pacific was not available.

STATION IMPROVEMENTS

Improvements are planned for 20 of Metra's 243 stations this year. Projects at another 47 stations are currently in the design process for construction in later years. Accessibility and state of good repair improvements are the focus of smaller projects at 26 stations that began in 2025. Improvements planned under this program for 2026 include seven stations on the **Rock Island Line** and the Cicero and Western Springs stations on the **BNSF Line**. Improvements may include ramps, handrails, curbs and gutters, parking lots, pavement markings, signage, retaining walls, canopy alterations, and other alterations required to meet accessibility criteria.

Along the **Metra Electric Line**, Metra is continuing a multiyear effort to rebuild the Chicago State/95th Street Station and rehabilitate the South Water Street entrance to Millennium Station. On the **Rock Island Line**, Metra will continue a project to replace the platform, rehab parking areas and build new warming shelters at 115th Street/Morgan Park Station. Work will also continue on the construction of a new infill station at Auburn Park (79th and Lowe), which is scheduled for completion by the end of the year. On the **BNSF Line**, improvements will include the rehabilitation of the historic LaGrange Road Station and new platforms at Westmont.

Work is nearing completion on the replacement of the platforms at Grayslake and Morton Grove on the **Milwaukee District North Line**, Midlothian on the **Rock Island Line**, Pingree Road on the **UP Northwest Line** and Kedzie on the **UP West Line**.

TRACK IMPROVEMENTS

Metra and its railroad partners plan to replace approximately at least 51,000 railroad ties this year. On the **Rock Island Line**, Metra forces will replace 16,562 ties between Mokena and Joliet. Metra forces will also replace 18,500 ties and 23,949 feet of rail between Rondout and Fox Lake on the **Milwaukee District North Line**. BNSF plans to replace 16,000 ties between Hinsdale and West Eola (Aurora). Metra and contractors will also continue infrastructure work in preparation for the installation of a fourth track on the **Metra Electric Line**.

ROAD CROSSING IMPROVEMENTS

Metra and its railroad partners plan to make improvements to 22 rail crossings in 2026. Five crossing replacements are planned on the **Metra Electric** branch lines (Ridgeland Avenue, Clyde Avenue and Chappel Avenue on the South Chicago Branch and Parnell Avenue and Normal Avenue on the Blue Island Branch). There are six crossing replacements planned on the **Rock Island Line**, one on the **Southwest Service** and five more between the **Milwaukee District North and West** lines. On the **BNSF Line**, road crossings will be replaced at Loomis Street in Naperville, Prospect Avenue in Clarendon Hills, and Hollywood Avenue in Riverside. Replacements are also planned at LaGrange Road and Harlem Avenue and multiple pedestrian crossings depending upon funding availability.

BRIDGE IMPROVEMENTS

A major project to rebuild 11 120-year-old bridges between Fullerton Avenue and Addison Street in Chicago on the **UP North Line** continues, with Segment 1 of the project (the Fullerton, Clybourn, and Wrightwood bridges and adjoining retaining walls) currently out for bid. The \$337 million project will also replace 4 miles of track structure and 1.75 miles of retaining walls. On the **Rock Island Line**, Metra will continue work on the replacement of the bridge at Morgan Street in Chicago and plans to begin the rehab of Bridge 86 over 78th Street as part of the new Auburn Park Station project.

Bridges are a critical part of Metra's infrastructure. More than half of the 446 bridges on Metra-owned lines are more than a century old. Currently, there is no dedicated federal funding program, specifically dedicated to improving commuter rail bridges. To address this critical need, Illinois Senator Tammy Duckworth and Congressman Mike Quigley have introduced the *Building Rail Infrastructure for a Durable & Growing Economy (BRIDGE) Act*, which would establish a first-ever \$1.5 billion annual competitive grant program to fund the long-overdue maintenance, replacement and rehabilitation of commuter rail bridges across the country.

Even though funding has yet to be secured, Metra knows that preparation is essential and has developed a 20-year plan to replace or rehabilitate 210 bridges, requiring about \$3 billion in investment. Design is complete or nearly complete on nine bridges with 30 more bridges in the pipeline for preliminary engineering.

SIGNAL/COMMUNICATIONS IMPROVEMENTS

Multiple signal improvement projects are planned or underway across the Metra system in 2026. Collectively, these projects, which can take multiple years to implement, strengthen system reliability, increase operational flexibility, and support the long-term modernization of Metra's signal network. Communications crews will also be deployed across the system to install improved electronic signage, speaker systems, and security systems.

On the **Metra Electric**, several signal improvement projects are underway, including upgrades to signals and interlockings between Millennium Station and Roosevelt Road to accommodate the NICTD 4th Track expansion and future service increases; the installation of full bi-directional signaling between Roosevelt Road and 65th Street; and the installation of new grade crossing equipment between Yates and 93rd Street on the South Chicago Branch Line, including SMART gate technology that allows continual remote monitoring of crossing devices to identify performance issues and enable proactive maintenance

Work will continue on the renewal of the 16th Street interlocking on the **Rock Island Line** following last year's replacement of the 16th Street Tower. The project will focus on a new track configuration between the 16th Street diamonds and Archer Avenue. Metra will also complete installation of a new control point at 75th Street on the **Southwest Service**. This control point replaces the old Forest Hill Junction with CSX, which was eliminated by a flyover funded through the CREATE program.

Two signal projects are planned on the **Milwaukee District West Line**, including the renewal of signal and grade-crossing equipment between Tower B12 in Franklin Park and Galewood in Chicago. Work includes modernization of signal systems, upgraded circuitry, and improved crossing protection, including SMART gates. A second project will upgrade signal systems at multiple crossings in Elmwood Park.

To minimize impacts on Metra riders, most work will be performed during off-peak hours and on weekends, which could result in delays to trains during those times. Riders are advised to check [metra.com/constructionnotices](https://www.metra.com/constructionnotices) for information about how service may be impacted. Riders can also use Metra's train tracker, available at [metratracker.com](https://www.metratracker.com), to check the status of their trains.

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Metra 2026 Construction/Capital Improvement Projects

STATIONS

BNSF Line

- LaGrange Road, LaGrange – Rehab of historic station
- Westmont – New extended and elevated platforms
- Cicero – ADA and state of good repair improvements
- Western Springs – ADA and state of good repair improvements

Rock Island Line

- Auburn Park, Chicago – Ongoing construction of new infill station
- 99th Street/Beverly, Chicago (Beverly Branch) – ADA and state of good repair improvements
- 103rd Street Washington Heights, Chicago (Beverly Branch) – ADA and state of good repair improvements
- 111th Street/Morgan Park, Chicago (Beverly Branch) – ADA and state of good repair improvements
- 115th Street/Morgan Park, Chicago (Beverly Branch) – Renovation of the station including new platforms, parking areas, lighting, and shelters
- Vermont Street (Blue Island) – ADA and state of good repair improvements
- Robbins – ADA and state of good repair improvements
- Midlothian – Platform renewal and ADA and state of good repair improvements
- Joliet – ADA and state of good repair improvements

Milwaukee District North Line

- Morton Grove – Platform construction and new lighting
- Grayslake – Platform renewal

Metra Electric Line

- Millennium/South Water – Ongoing rehab of entrance and elevators
- 95th Street/Chicago State – Ongoing rehab of station facility including ADA accessibility

UP North Line

- Kenosha – City-managed project to replace elevator

UP Northwest Line

- Pingree Road – Continued work to repair platform, retaining walls, and ADA ramp

UP West Line

- Kedzie – Platform repair and replacement

CROSSINGS

Rock Island Line

- 94th Street, Chicago (Beverly Branch) – Crossing replacement
- 105th Street, Chicago (Beverly Branch) – Crossing replacement
- Vermont Street, Chicago (Beverly Branch) – Crossing replacement
- 97th Street, Chicago – Crossing replacement
- 104th Street, Chicago – Crossing replacement
- 119th Street, Chicago – Crossing replacement

Southwest Service

- 54th Avenue, Oak Lawn – Crossing replacement

Milwaukee District North Line

- Conway Road, Lake Forest – Crossing replacement
- Dempster Street, Morton Grove – Crossing replacement

Milwaukee District West Line

- Walnut Avenue, Itasca – Crossing replacement
- Prospect Street, Roselle – Crossing replacement
- McClean Boulevard, Elgin – Crossing replacement

Metra Electric Line

- Ridgeland Avenue, (South Chicago Branch) – Crossing replacement
- Clyde Avenue (South Chicago Branch) – Crossing replacement
- Chappel Avenue (South Chicago Branch) – Crossing replacement
- Parnell Avenue (Blue Island Branch) – Crossing replacement
- Normal Avenue (Blue Island Branch) – Crossing replacement

BNSF Line

- Loomis Street, Naperville – Crossing replacement
- Prospect Avenue, Clarendon Hills – Crossing replacement
- Hollywood Avenue, Riverside – Crossing replacement
- Harlem Avenue, Berwyn – Crossing replacement
- LaGrange Road, LaGrange – Crossing replacement

TRACK

Rock Island Line

- Mokena to Joliet – Replace 16,562 ties

Milwaukee District North Line

- Rondout to Fox Lake – Replace 18,500 ties
- Rondout to Fox Lake – Replace 23,949 feet of rail

Metra Electric Line

- Chicago – Continuation of track and infrastructure improvements to accommodate fourth track for South Shore (NICTD) service expansion

BNSF Line

- Hinsdale to West Eola (Aurora) – Replace 16,000 ties on Track 1

BRIDGES

Rock Island Line

- Chicago – Project to replace Bridge 86 over 78th Street as part of the new Auburn Park Station

BNSF Line

- Keeler Avenue, Chicago – Retaining wall rehabilitation
- Between Drake and Central Park Avenues, Chicago – Retaining wall rehabilitation

UP North Line

- Fullerton Avenue to Addison Street, Chicago – Ongoing project to replace 11 bridges

SIGNAL & COMMUNICATIONS

Rock Island Line

- Chicago – Continuation of 16th Street interlocking renewal including new track configuration between 16th Street and Archer Avenue

SouthWest Service

- Chicago – Install new control point at 75th Street to replace the former Forest Hill interlocking

Metra Electric Line

- Chicago – Continue signal infrastructure upgrades between Millennium Station and Roosevelt Road to accommodate South Shore (NICTD) expansion project
- Chicago – Install bi-directional signaling between Roosevelt Road and 65th Street to modernize infrastructure to support higher operating speeds and increase operational flexibility
- Chicago – Install new grade crossing equipment, including SMART gate technology, on South Chicago Branch between Yates Avenue and 93rd Street

Milwaukee District West Line

- Franklin Park to Galewood (Chicago) – Multi-year project to modernize and upgrade signal and grade crossing equipment, including SMART gate technology
- Elmwood Park – Signal system upgrades at multiple crossings
- Thatcher Avenue, River Grove – Signal system upgrades at crossing
- River Road, River Grove – Signal system upgrades at crossing
- Naperville Road, Bartlett – Signal system upgrades at crossing