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CTA Announces 'Heritage Fleet,' Features Historic Trains And Buses

June 6, 2016 12:19 PM

Filed Under: Bus, Chicago Transit Authority, CTA, Heritage Fleet, Historic, Trains

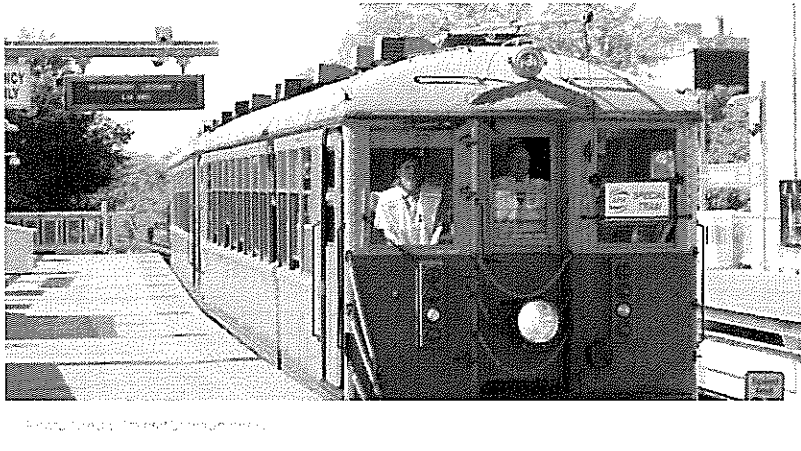


Photo courtesy of Transit Chicago

Ever wonder what it's like to ride a Chicago L train from 1923, or a Chicago bus from the 1960s? Wonder no longer — you can now experience that.

Last week, the Chicago Transit Authority announced the creation of the Heritage Fleet, a program that features historic trains and buses and celebrates more than 100 years of CTA history.

"The CTA has a very rich history, one that has contributed to the growth of Chicago as one of the world's most vibrant cities," said CTA President Dorval R. Carter in a press release. "The Heritage Fleet will allow the CTA and its customers to celebrate and appreciate that history in a real, tangible way."

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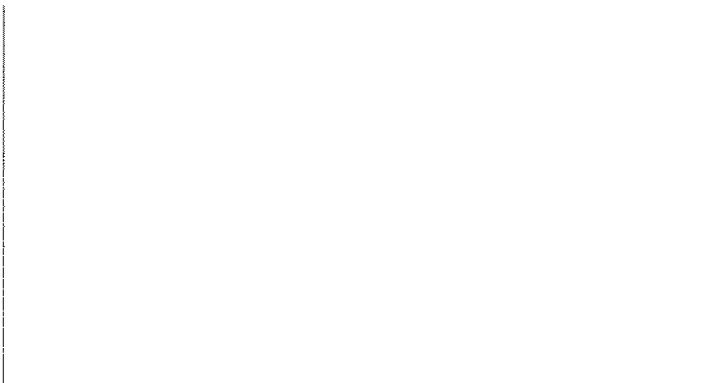
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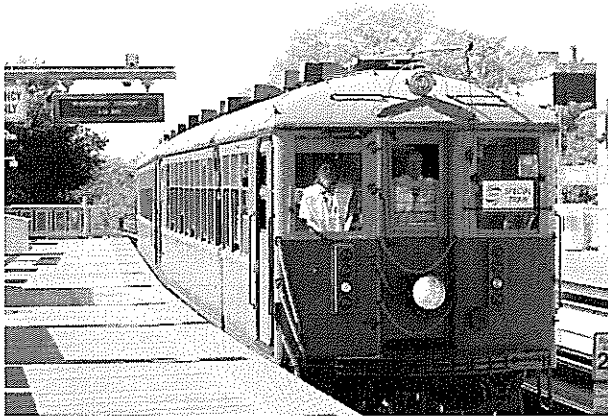


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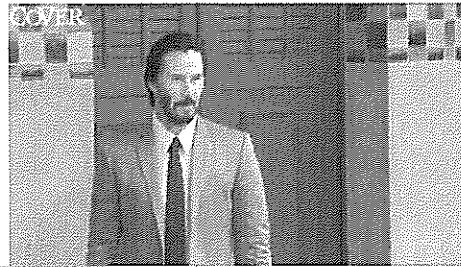
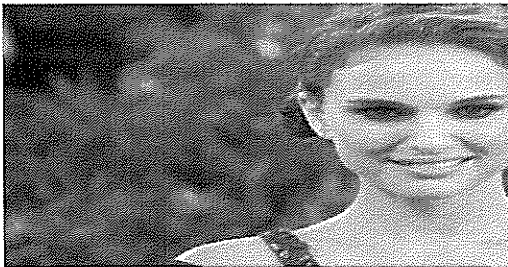
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Besides giving the public a glimpse of the past, the program also helps to ensure vintage buses and trains are maintained and stored properly.

How can the public see the historic vehicles?

They'll be displayed through occasional events, and are also available for private charter — one of the ways the program's funded (don't worry, the program isn't paid for with your taxes). Yes, you can rent a CTA train for funsies, provided it's not during rush hour.

The fleet currently includes rail cars from 1923, buses from the 1960s and an eight-car train of rail cars from the late '70s.



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Vintage CTA Trains, Buses Offer Peek at 1920s Transit

Eddie Arruza | July 11, 2016 8:21 pm

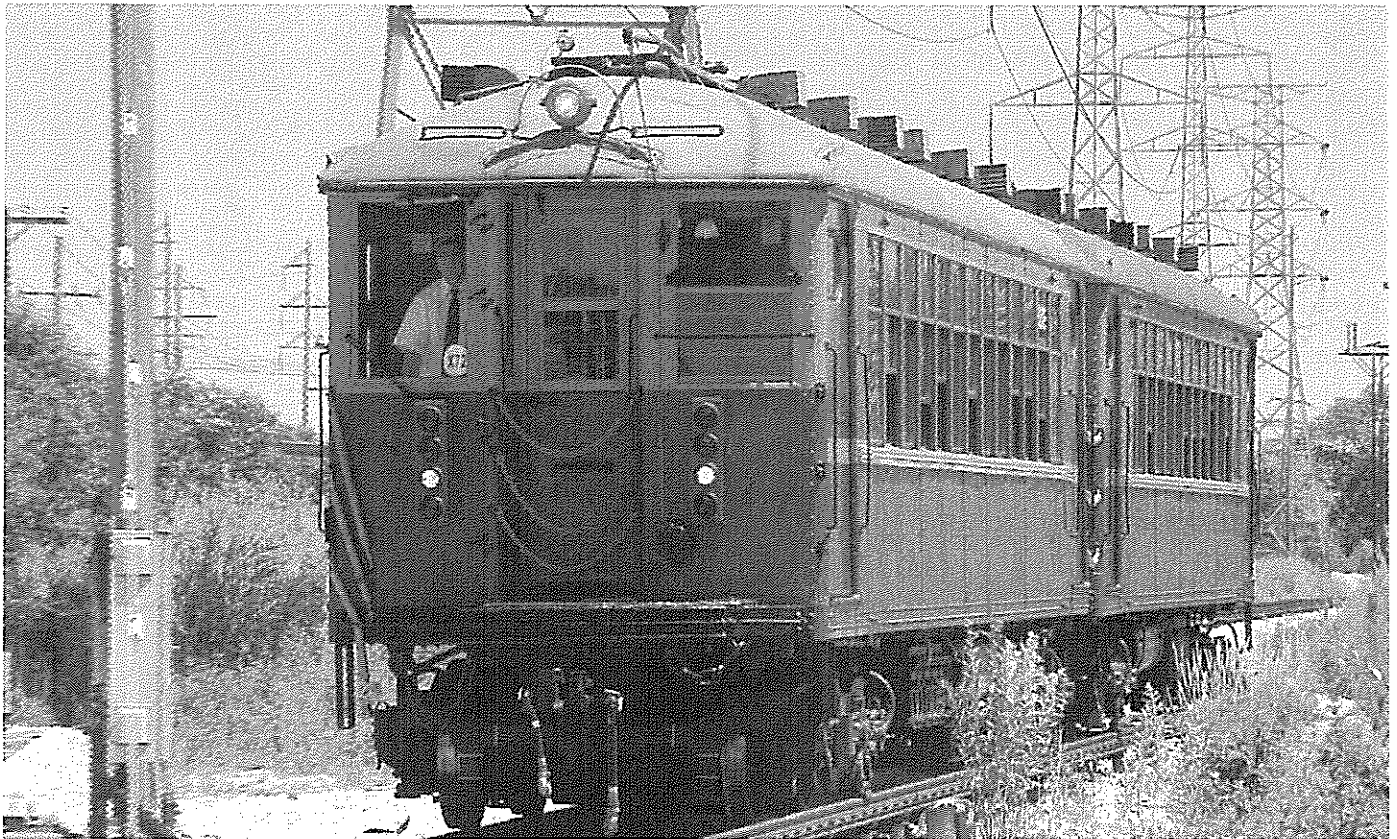
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Public transportation in Chicago dates back more than 150 years to a time when horse-drawn streetcars were the way to get around town.

A lot has changed since that time, but anyone fascinated by Chicago history will have a chance to experience a bygone era in public transit. The CTA is in the process of restoring some of what it calls its Heritage fleet and soon you may have a chance to roll through Chicago, 1920s style. Eddie Arruza has the story.

TRANSCRIPT

Eddie Arruza: As Chicago commuters waited for a public transit train nearly a century ago, this is what they saw coming down the line.



Bruce Moffat, CTA : This car 4271 is one of 205 cars that were built in the mid-1920s and represented the last word at that time in steel rapid transit cars.

Arruza: The vintage rail car may no longer be the last word in transit travel but it may soon be all the buzz. The antique cars have been largely restored and put back in order as part of what the CTA is calling its Heritage fleet.

Graham Garfield, CTA Heritage Fleet Committee Chairman: CTA's desire was to not only to preserve its history – to have it there for people to see – but also to experience and to enjoy, to be able to use the cars for special events, for charters, so that people can ride them, interact with them, and know what it was like to ride the equipment that generations of Chicagoans before us rode to work and play and enjoyed every day.

Arruza: The Heritage fleet program isn't limited to the rails. Some CTA buses from the 1960s will be also hitting the streets. But neither the buses nor the trains will be part of the current fleet. They're all for fun and education.

Garfield: We plan to bring out the cars basically as often as possible for any kind of events that either make sense to add them to or, in some cases, to even create the event just so we can get them out for the public to enjoy.



Arruza: But the Heritage fleet includes some trains that aren't exactly a distant memory. Even some younger Chicagoans will recall riding on these series 2400 railcars put into service in the late 1970s and retired just a few years ago. But the cars have been largely restored to look as they did around the time of the U.S. Bicentennial.

Garfield: We've outfitted them with vintage advertisements as well as maps from the period to give people a little bit more of a flavor of what it was like to ride the cars when they were first delivered in the 1970s.

Arruza: Those were the trains rolling right outside Elwood J. Blues's apartment in the 1980 "Blues Brothers" film.

The series 4000 cars from the 1920s have even more vintage elements from the original incandescent lights, to the old pull for the bell that signaled that the doors were closing.

When these trains were new in 1923 they looked a little different than they do today. For one thing, they had a different paint job, and the seats were covered in a green velour upholstery. This brown Naugahyde was added sometime in the 1940s.

But another keen feature was that the seatbacks could be adjusted, so a group of passengers could sit facing each other.

The trains also had another neat feature called dynamic air conditioning, which means that on hot days like today, you opened the window for fresh air.



Eddie Arruza enjoys "dynamic air conditioning" on a vintage railcar.

The CTA says the Heritage fleet program has been in the works for years, but it took time to get it ready for the streets and rails because its funding is coming from donations and sales of CTA merchandise. It also needed experts to get the old wheels rolling.

Brian Steele, CTA Spokesman: The way that we've kept these vintage vehicles working is primarily through volunteer efforts: retirees providing their expertise, people working in their off hours.

Arruza: One of those experts is Bruce Moffat, who not only worked for the CTA for many years, but is also a rail historian. He's among the few who know how to operate the antiquated system of the Series 4000 car.

Moffat: Compared to the trains of today, they're quite creatures now of another era.

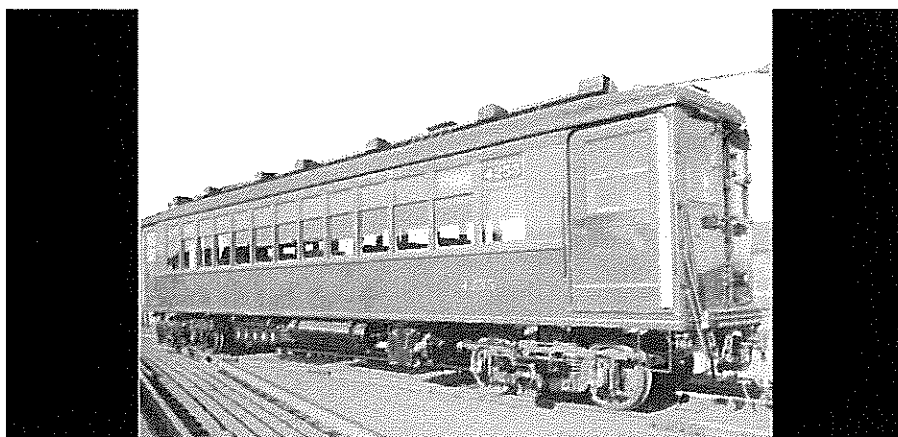


Bruce Moffat

The air compressor, when it starts to charge the air system, you get this *thump-thump-thump-thump-thump*, which you don't hear anymore. And when the trains start up, the motors make a very low growl.

Arruza: To be sure, the CTA and its predecessor transit agencies had many other models of buses and trains throughout the 20th century. Many were long ago sent to scrap heaps or rail museums. Meaning that for the time being, the Heritage fleet will be limited in scope.

Graham: Right now we don't have any other cars from between our 1920s cars and 1970s cars in our active Heritage fleet. We have another set of cars from the late 1960s that we are assessing to see if we can restore them to become an active part of the fleet.

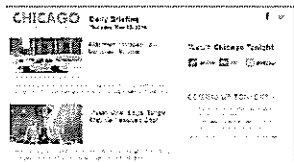


Exterior view of a 4000 series railcar from the CTA's Heritage fleet (Courtesy CTA)

Arruza: In a town where public transportation has seesawed between being a source of frustration and a source of pride, the Heritage fleet is promising to be a source of pleasure.

More on the story

The cost to charter a CTA Heritage fleet train starts at about \$2,000. But free events on the vintage vehicles are planned for later this year.



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CTA Goes Old School By Rolling Out Throwback Trains And Buses

By Aishwarya Kumar ([//www.dnainfo.com/chicago/about-us/our-team/editorial-team/aishwarya-kumar](http://www.dnainfo.com/chicago/about-us/our-team/editorial-team/aishwarya-kumar)) | June 7, 2016 6:42am

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CTA Heritage Fleet

CHICAGO — Have you ever wondered what the CTA trains and buses looked like in the early 20th Century?

Now you can ride in them, thanks to the Heritage Fleet, a program by the CTA to celebrate 100 years of its history.

CTA is rolling out select rail cars and buses, including two 1923 4000-series rail cars, an eight-car train of 2400-series rail cars and three buses from the 1960s. The rail cars and trains come in orange and brown paint like in the 1940s, and red, white and blue exterior markings from the 1970s.

"CTA is a vital part of the city of Chicago and preserving these vehicles will both engage with our customers as well as celebrate Chicago and CTA's history," said Jeffrey Tolman, CTA's spokesperson.

The rail cars and buses will be used for future public events and private charters. The schedule will be announced later this year.

Interactive: Where Do You Stand or Sit on the "L"?

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The CTA has used these vintage cars for events in the past like the 50th anniversary of Skokie Swift in 2014 and the 100th anniversary of the Linden purple line station. The 4000-series rail cars from 1923 was used for these events and was widely popular, said Tolman.

Tolman also said that it was a challenge to repair and maintain these rail cars and buses, but a program like Heritage Week will allow for a steady stream of revenue which will help with the maintenance.



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The CTA is rolling out a fleet of vintage trains and buses



By Clayton Guse

Posted: Tuesday June 7 2016, 5:41pm



Photograph: CC/Flickr/CTA Web (<https://www.flickr.com/photos/ctaweb/279>)

Ever hop on a CTA train or bus only to find out it's going express... to 1923?

If not, you might finally have a chance. The CTA announced this week that it will be rolling out its new "Heritage Fleet," which consists of throwback buses and train cars from the 20s, 60s and 70s. The idea is to preserve some of the Chicago's old trains and buses and to commemorate the history behind the city's public transit system.

Currently, the vintage fleet consists of two 4000-series rail cars from 1923, an eight-car train of 2400-series rail cars that date back to 1976 and three buses from the 1960s.

The program is being funded from revenue generated by CTAgifts.com (ctagifts.com) (you know, that site where you can purchase overpriced CTA-themed knickknacks), meaning that it's not tapping into the huge chunk of cash the city is obligated to put toward its awfully mismanaged pension funds.

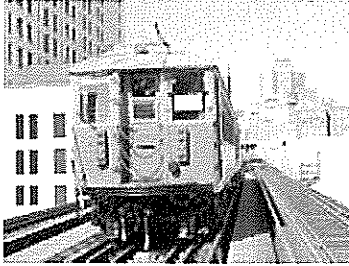
The trains and buses will hit the tracks and roads, respectively, later this year as part of the CTA's charter program and a series of yet-to-be-announced public events, according to DNAINfo (<https://www.dnainfo.com/chicago/20160607/downtown/cta-goes-old-school-by-rolling-out-throwback-trains-buses>). So if you hop onto a funky looking train or bus, take a second to acknowledge how awesome and historic the CTA is (with the exception of the occasional mind-numbing delays).

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Chicago Transit Authority moving to preserve its tangible heritage - Chicago Business Journal



The Chicago Transit Authority is making plans to showcase some tangible parts of its history, specifically, a number of vintage rail cars, buses and other equipment that reflect how the city's public transit system has evolved over more than 100 years of moving local residents from one location to another.

Dubbed the "Heritage Fleet" program, the new effort will ensure that all selected vehicles and equipment are properly maintained and stored, and that they continue to be used for charter and other public events.



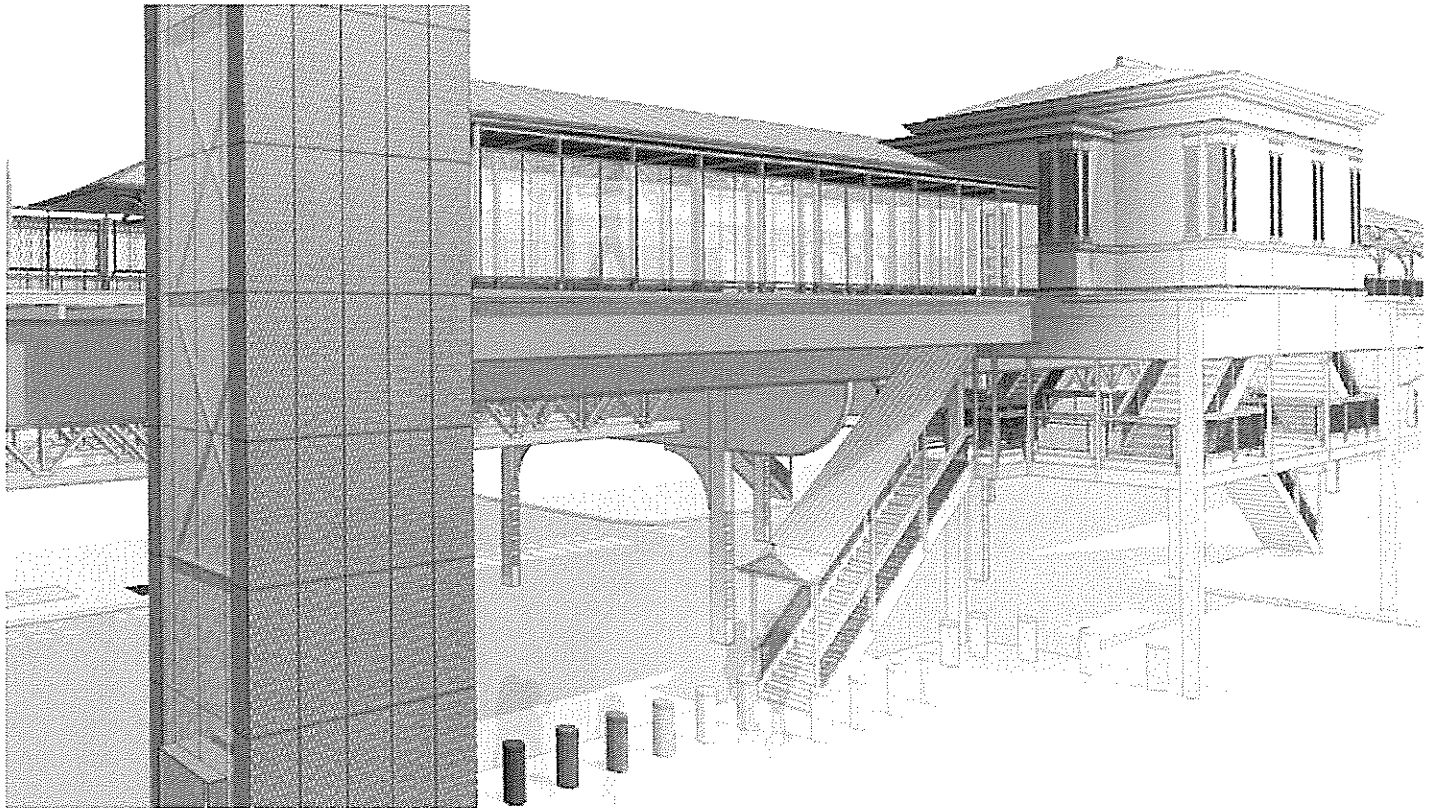
Three vintage 1960's Chicago Transit Authority bus are now part of the Heritage Fleet.

Noted CTA president Dorval Carter: "The CTA has a very rich history, one that has contributed to the growth of Chicago as one of the world's most vibrant cities. The Heritage Fleet will allow the CTA and its customers to celebrate and appreciate that history in a real, tangible way."

Among the Heritage Fleet holdings thus far are two 1923 4000-series rail cars, featuring the orange-and-brown paint scheme they wore in the 1940s. Reproduced advertisements from the era also are emblazoned on the vintage rail cars. The Fleet also includes an eight-car train of 2400-series rail cars from 1976-78 with restored red-white-and-blue exterior markings, plus three buses from the 1960s with their original markings.

Funding for the Heritage Fleet program will come from revenue generated from CTAgifts.com, the Authority's online merchandise store, and from private charters of vehicles. The CTA also is developing a plan to showcase the historic vehicles at city events and activities.

CTA to renovate historic Quincy station in Loop



The Quincy "L" station, seen in this artist's rendering, will undergo renovations, including the addition of elevators for the disabled, CTA President Dorval Carter said June 8, 2016. (CTA / Handout)



By **Mary Wisniewski**
Chicago Tribune

JUNE 8, 2016, 5:52 PM

In 1897, William McKinley was in the White House, aviator Amelia Earhart was a baby and the Quincy "L" station was built in Chicago's downtown.

Some 119 years later, the stop at Quincy and Wells streets in Chicago's Loop is still one of the busiest stations on the CTA system, located near the financial district and Willis Tower, with 2.2 million rides annually on the Brown, Orange, Pink and Purple lines. It's also one of the most attractive, with pressed metal wreaths and polished wood in the stationhouse, a ticket agent booth replicated in the 1980s based on original 1897 plans and old-time posters on the platform.

But even the best-preserved among us need the occasional makeover. So on Wednesday, the CTA board approved a contract for station renovations, which will include adding two elevators to make the station accessible to customers with disabilities.

The \$18.2 million renovation also will include stair replacement, painting and lighting improvements, but it will preserve the appearance of the station, according to the CTA. The board awarded an \$11.7 million contract to Park Ridge-based Ragnar Benson Construction LLC, which has done previous work for the CTA. That includes the Loop track renewal project in 2012, which replaced more than 2 miles of elevated rail and track components downtown, said CTA spokesman Jeffrey Tolman.

The rest of the Quincy project will be handled in-house, Tolman said. The station, which is expected to remain open during construction, was last renovated in 1988.

"It's a very busy station for us, and I think it will be a tremendous improvement to our customers and particularly to our disabled customers," CTA President Dorval Carter told reporters after the meeting. Work on the station is expected to begin later this year, though no date was immediately available.

The CTA is also looking to better preserve its historic cars and equipment through a Heritage Fleet program announced last week. The fleet consists of a selection of retired railcars and buses, including two 1923 orange-and-brown 4000-series railcars, along with buses from the 1960s with their original markings.

The program will set guidelines for future preservation, maintenance and repair of the vehicles, with funding from revenue generated by the CTA's online gift store and private charters of the vehicles. The agency also plans to show off the historic vehicles at city events and activities.

After Wednesday's meeting, Carter also noted that the state of Illinois' continued budget impasse means that the agency still is not receiving its annual \$28 million subsidy for reduced and free fares. Such fares are provided for students, senior citizens, members of the military and people with disabilities.

"It's not having an immediate impact on service or anything like that," Carter said. He said the agency's budget is big enough to deal with the delay in funding.

But he noted it is a growing cost for the CTA, and he is looking forward to the continuing commitment from the state.

The CTA also announced that it had received its first perfect score in its triennial review from the Federal Transit Administration, the oversight agency for transit systems. The FTA reviewed 17 areas, including safety, finance, maintenance and public input.

The FTA looked at nearly 600 transit agencies between 2013 and 2016 and found an average of eight deficiencies in each, CTA spokesman Brian Steele said. An FTA representative was not immediately available for comment.

"It is very rare, especially for a transit agency of this size, to get a perfect score," Carter said in a statement. He said the score is a testament to the attention paid by CTA employees to federal regulations.

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CULTURE (/CULTURE)

CTA to Roll Out Vintage Train Cars for Cubs World Series Games

Reuben Unrau (/stories-by-author/reuben-unrau) | October 28, 2016 2:34 pm

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As part of its Heritage fleet program, the CTA will be operating its refurbished rail cars on the Red Line before the Cubs' World Series home games this weekend. (Courtesy of Chicago Transit Authority)

Taking the CTA Red Line will be a blast from the past for some Cubs fans heading to their team's first World Series appearance in more than half a century.

In honor of the Cubs' historic run, the Chicago Transit Authority will be running vintage 2400-series cars along the Red Line for Games 3, 4, and 5 at Wrigley Field over the weekend.

The train cars, built between 1976 and 1978, will make one round trip on the Red Line, starting and ending at the Howard station on the city's North Side, with stops to all stations served by the line.

The fully restored cars include the original 1976 red, white and blue stripes on the exterior, honoring the American Bicentennial. To commemorate the Cubs' 2016 season, the train's exterior will also be decorated with posters and famous slogans from legendary Chicago sportscasters Harry Caray and Jack Brickhouse. The cars' interiors will showcase a collection of reprinted advertisements dating back several decades.



(<http://chicagotonight.wttw.com/2016/07/11/vintage-cta-trains-buses-offer-peek-1920s-transit>) **Related:** *Vintage CTA Trains, Buses Offer Peek at 1920s Transit* (<http://chicagotonight.wttw.com/2016/07/11/vintage-cta-trains-buses-offer-peek-1920s-transit>)

The cars are part of CTA's Heritage fleet (<http://www.transitchicago.com/heritagefleet/>) program announced in June that aims to preserve historic rail cars and buses.

"CTA's desire was to not only preserve its history – to have it there for people to see – but also to experience and to enjoy, to be able to use the cars for special events, for charters, so that people can ride them, interact with them, and know what it was like to ride the equipment that generations of Chicagoans before us rode to work and play and enjoyed every day," CTA Heritage Fleet Committee Chairman Graham Garfield told Chicago Tonight in July. (<http://chicagotonight.wttw.com/2016/07/11/vintage-cta-trains-buses-offer-peek-1920s-transit>)

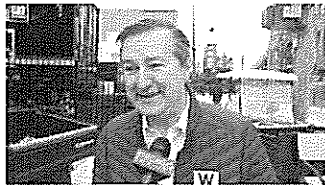
Catch the train

On Friday and Saturday, the vintage train will depart from the Howard Red Line station at approximately 3:45 p.m.; it will leave the 95th/Dan Ryan Red Line station and head north at roughly 4:50 p.m. First pitch is scheduled for 7:08 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

Times for Sunday's round trip are yet to be announced; first pitch for Game 5 is set for 7:15 p.m. Sunday.

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Oct. 27: We check in with Cubs Chairman Tom Ricketts on the eve of the first World Series game at Wrigley Field since 1945. Plus: the latest on Kyle Schwarber and parking restrictions around the ballpark.



The High Cost of the World Series in Chicago (<http://chicagotonight.wttw.com/2016/10/26/high-cost-world-series-chicago>)

Oct. 26: For Chicago's long-suffering fans to get in on the action of the Cubs' historic championship run, they'll have to pony up the big bucks.



(<http://chicagotonight.wttw.com/2016/06/01/ask-geoffrey-look-back-chicagos-streetcar-era>)
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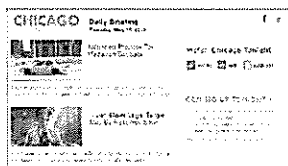
June 1: Geoffrey Baer tracks down answers for three questions about Chicago's bygone streetcar heyday.

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Daily Herald

Chicago posted: 10/28/2016 7:00 AM

CTA to run vintage car in advance of Cubs' Series games

AP Associated Press

CHICAGO -- A Chicago Transit Authority train built 40 years ago will celebrate the Cubs' World Series home games this weekend.

WMAQ-TV reports (<http://bit.ly/2fmfejd>) the CTA will run its "World Series Special" 2400 series vintage train on the Red Line leading up to the lead-off hitter in Games 3, 4 and 5 against the Cleveland Indians.

The train's cars were built between 1976 and 1978 - a stretch during which the north-siders had a won-loss record of 235-251 - and have the original U.S. bicentennial colors.

The exterior also includes posters celebrating the historic 2016 season and slogans from legendary broadcasters Jack Brickhouse and Harry Caray.

The train is part of the CTA's heritage fleet. It was created last year to preserve historic rail cars and buses.

Information from: WMAQ-TV.

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