

I-290 RECONSTRUCTION: CREATING A MODERN MULTIMODAL CORRIDOR

The I-290 corridor is one of Chicago’s original interstates. It is a multimodal corridor, with the CTA’s Blue Line running parallel between Forest Park and Chicago. The 13-mile segment of I-290 between I-94 and the I-88/I-294 interchange is currently under consideration for reconstruction and the addition of a managed lane. This project is unique in that it includes not only highway improvements, but also enhanced mobility for transit, new pedestrian and transit access, and the promotion of carpooling.



PROJECT BENEFITS

The I-290 reconstruction projects offers improvements to all modes of transportation to serve the future needs of both nearby residents and commuters.

- Transit access to the CTA’s Blue Line would be enhanced, including improved sidewalks, pedestrian crosswalks, and the addition of other amenities at certain stations.
- Pedestrian connectivity would be improved for communities on either side of I-290, minimizing the interstate barrier for nearby neighborhoods.
- Instead of simply constructing an additional lane where needed, this project will use a managed lane; allowing express bus access through Pace Bus and encouraging carpooling.

UNDERSTANDING THE NEED

The existing design of I-290 is outdated and the corridor has operational and safety issues that necessitate reconstruction and improvements.

- As much as 90% of the existing underlying pavement and subbase are over 50 years old.
- Of the 44 bridges, 34% are considered “structurally deficient” and 86% are “functionally obsolete.”
- I-290 reduces from four lanes to only three between Mannheim Road and Austin Boulevard, leading to bottlenecks, safety concerns, and severe congestion.
- CTA Blue Line stations adjacent to I-290 require transit riders to use narrow sidewalks along busy roads and pedestrian crosswalks that lack appropriate markings and signals across I-290 ramps.

DELIVERING ACCESSIBILITY, EQUITY, MOBILITY, AND ECONOMIC BENEFITS

The project would support broader equity goals, ranking as one of the best highway projects in the Chicago region to improve job accessibility for residents of economically disconnected areas (EDAs).

- Wider sidewalks, pedestrian plazas, safety islands, high visibility crosswalks, lighting, and pedestrian signals would be added to better facilitate pedestrians and transit riders at existing stations.
- Travel times would reduce 25% on general purpose lanes and 56% on the managed lane.
- The construction of I-290 is estimated to create nearly 22,000 jobs and boost Cook County’s gross domestic product by more than \$2.6 billion.



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I-290 Reconstruction: Creating a Modern Multimodal Corridor

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