

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

High-tech air purification system to be installed on Metra railcars

Ultraviolet light, better filters to improve onboard air quality

CHICAGO (March 17, 2021) – As part of its continued efforts to create safety and build rider confidence, Metra is significantly upgrading the ventilation system on its railcars with a new three-stage filtration and purification process, the agency announced today. The new system uses ultraviolet light, electrical fields and stronger filters to create the safest possible environment for its customers. Leading the way, Metra is among the first agencies to adopt such a comprehensive system for its railcars.

The new system is expected to remove and eliminate 99 percent of all airborne particulates, bacteria and viruses, including the virus that causes COVID-19. Metra already refreshes the air every four minutes and uses hospital-grade MERV 13 filters on its train cars; the new system will be the equivalent to or better than MERV 17 or HEPA standards.

“The air in our trains is already proven safe and healthy, but this new cutting-edge system sets the highest industry standard for quality,” said Metra CEO/Executive Director Jim Derwinski. “Combined with all the other steps we have taken to clean, disinfect and sanitize our system, and to promote healthy behavior by riders and workers, this is just one more reason our customers can ‘Commute with Confidence.’”

The Metra Board of Directors today approved a contract with Transitair Systems LLC, of Hornell, N.Y., to provide the new air filtration and purification system on nearly 700 railcars for \$6.6 million. The contract will cover all cars that are not due to be replaced when new cars (with a similar or better system) enter the fleet. The system, designed to fit in the same space as the existing HVAC system, will be tested on 50 cars before options for additional units are approved.

Under the new system, air will be cleaned in a three-step process:

- 1) The first step relies on an electrical attraction between airborne particles and the interior surfaces of a filter. Air will pass through one filter, and then through a unit that charges particles in the air, which are attracted to oppositely charged surfaces as the air passes through a second filter.
- 2) The second step uses ultraviolet light to kill or inactivate bacteria, mold and viruses.

- 3) In the final step, air passes through a unit with electrically charged ions and electrons, which react with airborne particles to remove or inactivate pollutants and viruses.

The upgraded air filtration and purification system is just one of the many ways Metra has responded to the COVID-19 pandemic. Metra also adopted a new regimen to clean, sanitize, disinfect and inspect all cars and Metra-maintained stations at least once a day, with an extra emphasis on disinfecting high-touch areas as frequently as possible, including the use of electrostatic disinfecting foggers.

Metra has also installed an abundance of signs in stations and on trains that remind riders that masks or face coverings must be worn, and that they should practice physical distancing. Metra also installed two new touchless hand sanitizer dispensers in every car, and customers can use the Ventra app to buy and display tickets, which eliminates close interactions with crews.

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About Metra

Metra is an essential resource that safely and reliably connects individuals to the things that matter most in their lives — their work, their homes and their families.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Leading the charge, Metra challenges the industry to prototype battery-powered, zero-emission locomotives

Request for proposals will seek to retrofit diesel engines with batteries

CHICAGO (April 21, 2021) – Demonstrating its leadership and commitment to innovation and cleaner energy, Metra is challenging the industry to create a zero-emission commuter locomotive by converting an older engine from diesel to one powered solely by batteries.

The Metra Board of Directors at its April meeting today approved the issuance of a Request for Proposals (RFP) that will ask manufacturers to propose solutions to convert three of Metra's older F40PH-3 diesel locomotives to zero-emission battery power. The RFP will be issued in the upcoming days; the contract is expected to be awarded in the fall and the first solutions should be delivered about 30 months later.

“This proposal could be game-changing,” said Metra Executive Director/CEO Jim Derwinski. “We have been monitoring the development of this technology for several years and believe the time is right to work with the industry and set a path for a brighter and cleaner future. With the Biden administration pushing for greener energy, we believe this is the perfect time to pursue this course of action. As we emerge from the fog of this pandemic, we see this as an opportunity to transform Metra, and to become a cleaner partner in the region. And this is only the first step.”

Metra estimates that replacing three older diesel locomotives with zero-emission batteries would reduce nitrogen oxides (NOx) emissions by more than 100 tons per year and particulate matter (PM) emissions by more than two tons per year. By replacing diesel power with battery power, Metra will significantly reduce its emissions footprint and greatly improve air quality for its riders and the Chicago region.

Metra will require the zero-emission locomotives to be fully compatible with its existing railcars and diesel locomotives. They must be capable of operating on any Metra line with trains that range in size from two to 11 cars, and they must be capable of providing a safe and comfortable ride at all speeds up to the maximum speed of 79 mph. The batteries must also power onboard systems, such as lighting, intercoms and HVAC. The locomotives may be painted in a green version of Metra's paint scheme (per the conceptual illustrations) to indicate the green technology.

Respondents to the RFP will have to address several key questions: Operating distance? Recharge Time? Operations in Chicago weather? Life cycle maintenance costs? Supporting infrastructure?

The answers to those questions will help determine if Metra proceeds with the purchase and where and how the locomotives would be used in the Metra system. The Rock Island Line's Beverly Branch is a likely candidate for the first use because of its shorter length; a battery-powered train could make several trips before needing to be recharged.

Metra has taken other recent steps to reduce its diesel emissions, including:

- Seeking to purchase six switch locomotives that meet the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Tier IV emissions standards, the highest standards currently in effect, and one zero-emission, all electric-powered switch locomotive.
- Ordering 15 remanufactured locomotives that meet the EPA's Tier 3 emissions standards, with an option to buy up to 27 more. These locomotives will be replacing Tier 0 emissions locomotives currently in service. The first of those locomotives is expected to be delivered in early 2022.

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SPRING 2021

my metra

NEXT GEN CARS

COMMUTING SAFELY
What Research Shows

ON BOARD
Meet the new Chair

CLEARING THE AIR
New Filtration System



my message

James M. Derwinski, CEO

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John P. Zediker
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Director
Kane County

James M. Derwinski
CEO/Executive Director

Just as the COVID-19 pandemic did not stop Metra, it also did not stop us from planning for our future. And you, as a *My Metra* rider, will soon start to see the benefits.

That's what this issue is about – how our investments in the future are making things better for our customers. We are confident that a recovery is coming and want to be prepared.

Let's start with the biggest investment, and one of the biggest changes in Metra history. The Metra Board has approved the purchase of up to 500 new railcars with a modern, cutting-edge design. These new cars will allow us to finally retire cars that date from the Eisenhower administration. We are excited about adding these cars to our fleet and greatly improving your riding experience. You can read about the purchase on Pages 4 and 5.

And coming to existing Metra railcars: a new HVAC system, to make the already clean air on our trains even healthier. The new system features a three-stage filtration and purification process that uses ultraviolet light, electrical fields and stronger filters to create the safest possible environment for customers. You can read about the new system on Page 12.

Of course, we know we must convince riders that our trains are safe. That's what the stories on Pages 6 and 7 are about. Research shows public transit is safe. And we are working with building owners and businesses on our shared goal of getting people back on our trains and back into the workplace.

Finally, we have a new Chair of our Board, Romayne Brown, who will be guiding us for the next four years. You can read about her and her priorities on Page 9. One of those priorities is the Fair Transit South Cook Pilot, which is detailed on Page 8.

Big changes are coming to *My Metra*. We hope you agree that the future looks bright.

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HELP US HONOR WORKERS WHO HELP YOU

Do you know a Metra employee who exemplifies the spirit of *My Metra*? We want your help to honor such employees – those who take personal responsibility for our customers, fellow workers and the community. Maybe it's someone who goes above and beyond to find a lost item. Someone who helps you to get to your destination with a sure hand and a friendly face. Someone who volunteers their time and energy to help others.

The *My Metra* Honors Program identifies and acknowledges employees who make a difference and deserve recognition. To nominate an employee, send us an email at the address below. Tell us the employee's name and how they provided great customer service, helped a colleague or contributed to the community. Contact us at mymetrarecognition@metrarr.com.

We want to identify and honor those workers who are doing their part to make our service feel like *My Metra* to you. We can't do that without your help and feedback. We look forward to hearing from you.



WOULD YOU LIKE
TO REACH THOUSANDS
OF DAILY COMMUTERS?
ADVERTISE WITH US!

My Metra magazine is a great, cost-effective way to connect with Chicago area commuters. Your ad will be seen by riders on all 11 of our rail lines and will appear online in the digital version of *My Metra*. For more information on advertising opportunities and costs, email us at marketing@metrarr.com.

COMING SOON

NEXT GEN CARS



GREATER COMFORT AND CONVENIENCE ARE ON THEIR WAY

Modern railcars are on their way to Metra, replacing cars that date from the year Eisenhower was inaugurated, color TV and the TV dinner were introduced, and gas went for 20 cents a gallon.

That's an announcement Metra is elated to make, after the Board of Directors agreed to buy up to 500 made-in-the-USA railcars. The state-of-the-art cars, featuring a new multilevel design, promise to be more comfortable, accessible, reliable and safe than the outdated cars they will replace - the oldest of which was built in 1953.

"This move is truly transformational," said Metra CEO/Executive Director Jim Derwinski. "These cars will not only modernize our fleet, but they will improve operations while elevating the passenger experience to an entirely new level. It's really part of our long-term plan to evolve and serve the changing needs of today's commuters."

The new cars will have stainless steel bodies and be compatible with Metra's existing fleet, which means they can be coupled to current cars. They will also feature reliability and safety upgrades, including a microprocessor-controlled braking system and passenger area cameras.

The cars will be built by Alstom Transportation Inc. at its plant in Hornell, N.Y., and the first car will be delivered in three years. The initial order will be for 200 cars. Metra will have the option to buy up to 300 additional cars for up to \$1.8 billion total.

A video about the new cars can be viewed at [youtube.com/metra](https://www.youtube.com/metra).

A better passenger experience will include:

- **Two entranceways on each side of the cars** with doors nearly level to the platform, thereby requiring only one step to enter instead of multiple steps on the current cars. That will create faster boarding and better passenger flow, so you can get to your destination sooner.
- **Full ADA accessibility**, with lifts to bridge the slight difference between the platform and entrance.
- **Video screens, bike racks, charging outlets, cupholders, armrests** and a variety of other amenities requested by customers.
- **A quieter and smoother ride.**
- **The most advanced HVAC system available**, which will scrub the circulated air - reducing staleness, allergens and airborne viruses.
- **Electrically operated doors.**
- **Passenger area cameras.**



KEY RESEARCH SHOWS SAFETY OF PUBLIC TRANSIT

No direct correlation found between public transportation and the transmission of COVID-19

At the beginning of the pandemic there was a rush by the media to suggest that transit was a major cause of the virus's spread. However, as reported in a major study by Sam Schwartz, a leading engineering firm, this suspicion has been shown to be untrue.

According to the study, health experts and government officials examining transit as a source of infection found no clear links. Major transit systems around the world were examined, including Paris, Vienna, Tokyo, Hong Kong, Seoul, Singapore and Milan.

In an examination of the New York City transit system between June 1 and September 12, 2020, more than 212 million rides were taken on subways and buses, and the average case counts of COVID-19 actually dropped from 623 per day to 281 per day, a decrease of 55 percent.

In the Chicago area, Metra has provided over 5.4 million rides during the pandemic and there has not been one contact tracing of the virus back to the train.

What makes transit so safe? There are many theories: short trips, little talking, enhanced airflow and mask mandates. Certainly the efforts made by Metra and other agencies play a role.

"The CDC recommends a minimum air change of 12 times per hour," said

Janice R. Thomas, Metra Chief of Staff. "Our cars replace the air 15 times per hour. Our trains also make a stop, on average, every 5.2 minutes, flooding the cars with fresh air."

There has not been one contact tracing of the virus back to a Metra train.

While ventilation is important, the study has shown that mask-wearing remains essential. Masks are mandatory for all riders and employees on Metra. Regular car cleaning is also key.

"When it comes to cleaning," Thomas added, "Metra has spared nothing. We are meticulously cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting our trains daily. We want our riders to know they can Commute with Confidence."

As the research concludes, what you do at a trip end, not necessarily the mode of travel, affects the probability of contracting the virus.





SAFE RETURN TO WORK SUMMIT

METRA AND DOWNTOWN BUILDINGS OUTLINE STEPS TO WELCOME EMPLOYEES BACK SAFELY

Metra worked with the Building Owners and Managers Association of Chicago (BOMA) to host a Safe Return to Work Summit last month. The goal was to gather business executives from around Chicago to address some of the scientific, business and psychological narratives related to COVID-19. More than 1,000 people attended the session in person and virtually.

Both Metra and BOMA know that commuters won't return to work unless they feel safe on the trains and in the buildings, so a major component of the summit was to address the many steps that have been taken to clean and disinfect workspaces and railcars. Janice R. Thomas, Metra's chief of staff, highlighted Metra's cleaning efforts, as well as its efforts to encourage safe behavior by customers and to communicate its "Commute with Confidence" message.

"We are meticulously cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting our trains daily. And, we're following the strictest CDC guidelines in doing so," she said. "Remember when you could not find hand sanitizer on store shelves? Well, Metra was out in front of that – and we installed hand sanitizers on every car in a matter of weeks."

Part of that strategy, she said, is to overcome initial, unfounded fears that public transportation is unsafe. Studies have shown no correlation around the world between public transit use and infection rates, she told attendees.

Anthony Scacco, the COO of Riverside Investment and Development, and Heather Spearman, regional operations manager for Jones Lang LaSalle, outlined all the changes that building owners and their tenants have taken to create safe workspaces. Those include improved ventilation and better filtration, the use of more touchless controls, enhanced



cleaning, changes in common areas to promote distancing, staggered work shifts and a variety of other measures.

David Caspar, U.S. CEO of BMO Financial Group, discussed the economic imperatives of returning to the office and examined the critical nature of in-person collaboration for companies' workforces. He earned a round of applause from the audience when he said:

"When people talk about the new normal, I say, no, this is not the new normal, this is the abnormal. But we are getting back to normal – and normal is getting back to the office."

Finally, Dr. Robert Murphy of Northwestern Medicine provided updates on the virus and vaccination efforts, as well as his perspective on the current environment and what steps are needed to reach a safe workplace for employees. He praised the fast development of highly effective vaccines as well as Metra's efforts to create safe trains.

"You've done a beautiful job cleaning up the train system and making safe travel," he said. "The numbers tell the story. There's nobody on these trains that has gotten infected."

The summit was sponsored by BMO Harris Bank, William Blair and Wintrust Bank, and Crain's Chicago Business was the exclusive media sponsor. It can be viewed on Metra's YouTube channel, [youtube.com/metra](https://www.youtube.com/metra).

FAIR TRANSIT PILOT TO AID SOUTH COOK

In conjunction with Cook County and Pace, Metra in January launched a three-year pilot program to improve transit service on the South Side of Chicago and in the south suburbs, starting with a 50 percent reduction in fares on the Metra Electric and Rock Island lines.

The program, known as the Fair Transit South Cook Pilot, aims to boost public transportation in a region that is more transit-dependent and economically disadvantaged than other parts of the county. The pilot is a priority of Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle and new Metra Board Chair Romayne C. Brown.

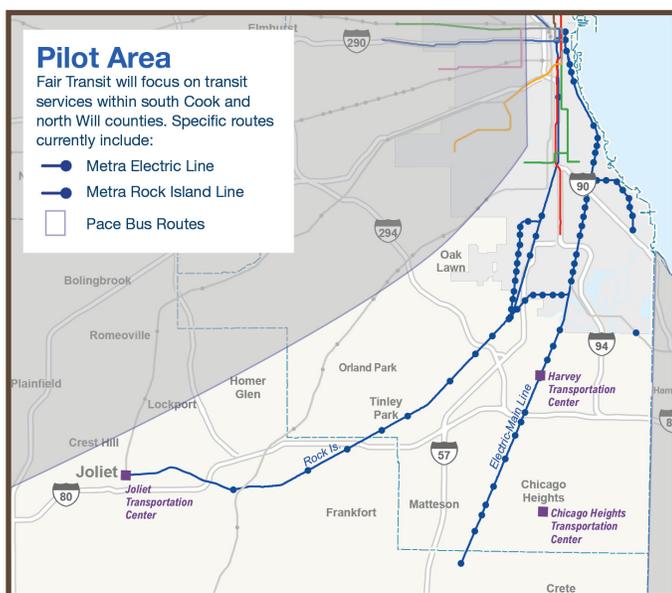
“With this effort, we are promoting transit equity and supporting those essential workers, getting them where they need to go,” Chair Brown said. “We are making transit an easier choice for those who need to travel for work, school or even leisure activities. It’s truly a win-win situation for everyone.”

Under the pilot, Metra is charging its reduced fare rates – normally charged to seniors, persons with disabilities and K-12 students – for all tickets to all riders on the lines.



“This is part of our overall approach to ensure that we are equitably allocating public resources to benefit our communities with the greatest need.”

*- Cook County Board President
Toni Preckwinkle*



Those rates, which required no changes to Metra’s fare structure and could be implemented immediately, will be assessed as the pilot progresses. Cook County will cover the difference between the reduced fares and full fares for three years.

“Cook County is extremely excited to partner with Metra and Pace to bring enhanced and affordable transit options to residents and workers in the Southland,” said President Preckwinkle. “This is part of our overall approach to ensure



Ms. Brown is a professional transit manager with more than 31 years of operational and customer service experience.

MEET NEW CHAIR ROMAYNE C. BROWN

that we are equitably allocating public resources to benefit our communities with the greatest need.”

The plan also includes expansion of Pace’s 352 Halsted Service, which will improve the hours and frequency of service between the CTA Red Line 95th/Dan Ryan Station and the Pace Chicago Heights Terminal on weekdays, Saturday and Sunday. As Fair Transit moves forward, additional improvements to service options will be made.

For more information:
cookcountyil.gov/FAIRTRANSIT.



Romaine C. Brown may be new to her position as Chair of the Metra Board of Directors, but she’s not new to the Board and she is certainly not new to public transportation.

After a long career at the CTA, she was appointed to the Metra Board by Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle in September 2013, elected Vice Chair in 2016 and now occupies the Chair’s seat.

As Chair, Brown’s mission is to promote excellent relationships between the Board, management and other stakeholders. She is committed to accountability, efficiencies, highly effective collaboration, fiduciary responsibility, diversity, inclusion and transparency.

Her priorities are maintaining Metra’s service and on-time performance; working to restore Metra’s ridership and finances in the wake of the pandemic; overseeing one of the largest infusions of capital dollars since Metra’s creation; and implementing a pilot project with Cook County to provide lower fares in south Cook County.

Brown is a professional transit manager with more than 31 years of operational and customer service experience at the CTA. She started as a rail conductor in 1978 and worked her way through the ranks at the agency, finishing her CTA career in 2010 as the Vice President of Rail Operations.

In her last position, Brown oversaw a \$1.3 billion budget, while developing, implementing and administering policies, programs and procedures that drove efficiency, rider satisfaction and safety in a rail system serving more than half a million riders daily. As Director of Rail Operations and General Manager of Rail Operations, she oversaw the operational, maintenance, administrative and customer service functions for the CTA’s rail system, which includes eight routes, 145 stations and about 224 miles of track.

Brown has received significant honors and recognition for her professional achievements and public service, including the Kathy Osterman Award for superior public service; being featured on the cover of *Mass Transit Magazine*; and receiving the Presidential Employee Excellence Award.



Rick Mueller

Pete Frezados

Rick Mueller, 69, of Burr Ridge, has been riding the BNSF Line since 1975. But his friend Pete Frezados, 81, of Hinsdale, has him beat - he's been riding the line since 1970. We talked to them about how they met, what changes they've seen over the years and how they feel about riding Metra now.

How did you meet?

PF: Back in the 70s I would bring a lot of work with me and read on the train. I didn't socialize much. As things changed I didn't take as much work with me and I started to socialize and that's how we got to know each other.

RM: Both of us are attorneys, so we would compare notes on our cases.

What was it like when you started?

PF: When I first got on, there were a couple of cars that had cloth seats. That goes back a ways. And most of us were wearing suits and ties, every day.

RM: When I started, back in 1975, I always ended up on the last car, because it was least crowded. I told my wife that I can't believe how everybody on the train smoked. And my father-in-law, who had been taking the train for 40 years, said, "Rick, the last car is the smoking car." It took me months to learn that. I saved a lot of money on dry cleaning bills after that.

Why do you enjoy riding the train?

PF: The train is relaxing. You get a cup of coffee, read the newspaper - there's another change: I think I am the only one still reading the newspaper. Everyone else is looking at their phone.

RM: Pete said it. And being able to meet people - you become friends with a number of individuals taking the train.

What would you tell others who are considering riding the train?

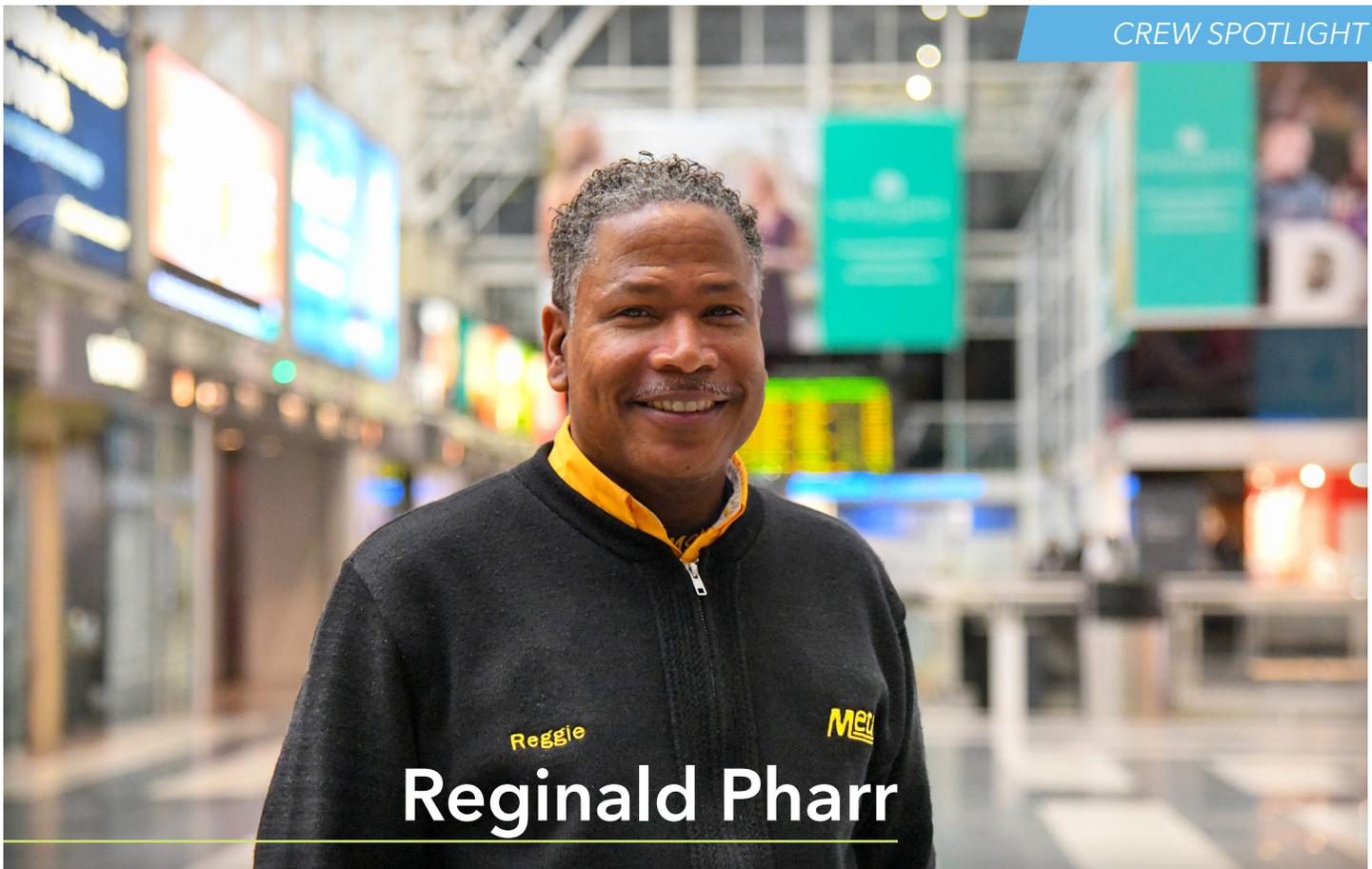
RM: Everything is socially distant and the cars are very clean. I feel safe.

PF: It would seem to me they don't have much to worry about on the train, because we are so far apart, and I think the personnel do a good job of making sure everybody keeps that mask on.

Are you going to retire?

PF: No, no. Look, I'm a lawyer. How hard is it to be at a desk, get on the phone and crab at people?

RM: He meant, "Talk intelligently."



Reginald Pharr

You receive a lot of compliments for attentiveness and follow-through. What drives you to offer that level of service?

The simple answer is the golden rule. I try to treat them the way I would want to be treated. If I'm at that window and I lost my wallet, what kind of service would I want?

What do you enjoy most about the job?

Seeing the smile on the person's face when that item is returned, especially a valuable item.

Can you recall one of those times that stands out?

One that I'll never forget: a lady came to the window and she said, "I know it's a longshot and I hate to ask, but I lost a rose gold bracelet and it had diamonds all around it." When it came in, I didn't even know what rose gold was, but I said, "This looks valuable," so I set it aside. I came in the back and

I got it and when I came back and set it on the counter, she literally stood there and cried for three minutes. She said it wasn't just the value of the jewelry, it was the sentimental value. It really meant a lot to her.

What's the most interesting thing that's ever shown up in the Lost and Found?

A small urn came in. It had the person's name on it, and it had his date of birth and his date of demise and it had the fact that he was a veteran. I knew someone had to be looking for this. So I typed in his name online and sure enough the funeral arrangements came up. I called the funeral home and I explained the situation. They reached out to his wife and she called me and said, "My son left it on the train."

What's the key to good service?

It all goes back to that golden rule. Treat others as you would like to be treated, regardless of the value of the item.

Of all the agents working in the Metra system, none have garnered more praise from customers than Union Pacific Lost and Found agent Reggie Pharr. To learn more about Reggie, we visited him at the Lost and Found office.

HIGH-TECH AIR PURIFICATION SYSTEM TO BE INSTALLED ON METRA RAILCARS

Ultraviolet light, better filters to improve onboard air quality

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- The first step relies on an electrical attraction between airborne particles and the interior surfaces of a filter. Air will pass through one filter, and then through a unit that charges particles in the air, which are attracted to oppositely charged surfaces as the air passes through a second filter.
- The second step uses ultraviolet light to kill or inactivate bacteria, mold and viruses.
- In the final step, air passes through a unit with electrically charged ions and electrons, which react with airborne particles to remove or inactivate pollutants and viruses.

The upgraded air system is just one of the many ways Metra has responded to the COVID-19 pandemic. Metra also adopted a new regimen to clean, sanitize, disinfect and inspect all cars and stations at least once a day, and encourages safe behavior by customers with an array of signs and announcements.

METRA'S NEW COO

Metra has promoted Kevin McCann, who rose through the ranks to become head of the agency's Mechanical Department, to be its next Chief Operating Officer. He will start his new position on July 1, when current COO Bruce Marcheschi retires.

"In a career at Metra that spans more than two decades, Kevin has consistently demonstrated the skills and personality to do his job efficiently and effectively and lead others to do the same," said Metra Executive Director/CEO Jim Derwinski. "He truly embodies the spirit of *My Metra*, always taking personal responsibility for our customers and for his fellow workers."

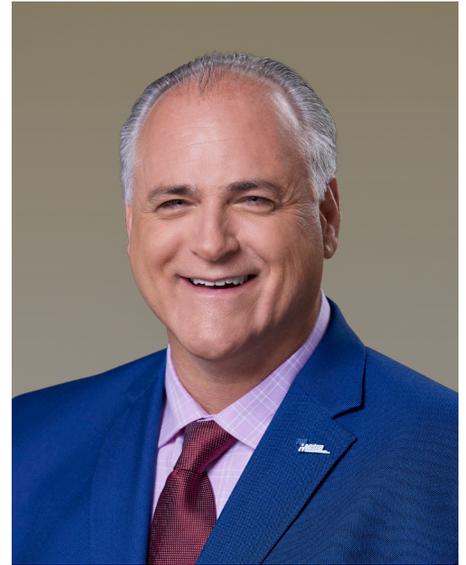
The Chief Operating Officer Deputy Executive Director for Operations leads all aspects of Metra's operations, including Metra's three operating arms: the Transportation Department, which provides the service; the Mechanical Department, which maintains and

replaces the locomotives and railcars; and the Engineering Department, which maintains and replaces the system's stations, track and other infrastructure.

"Kevin has consistently demonstrated the skills and personality to do his job efficiently and effectively and lead others to do the same."

– Jim Derwinski
Metra Executive Director/CEO

"I am honored to be selected to lead the hardworking and dedicated professionals who comprise Metra's operating departments," McCann said.



McCann started as a carman at Metra in 1996 after previously working for Midway Airlines and Norfolk Southern Railroad. Over the years, he was promoted to Senior Rail Inspector, Project Manager for Metra's railcar procurement program, Superintendent of the railcar rehab program, Director of the Rock Island Line's Mechanical Division, Senior Director of Mechanical Operations and Senior Director of Mechanical Capital Projects. He has served as Chief Mechanical Officer of Metra since January 2018.



STATION BREAK

The historic **La Grange Stone Avenue Station** on the BNSF Line was built by the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad in 1901 out of limestone from a local quarry. The design, influenced by the Kenilworth Station that is a decade older, features bold stone arches, gabled roofs and wood detailing. Several renovations over the years had removed many original features, but the most recent renovation, completed in 2014, was guided by the station's original plans and restored much of its turn-of-the-century appeal. It is a village landmark.

ASK US ANYTHING

Here's an opportunity for you to ask us anything about Metra. If you have something to ask us, email your question to mymetra@metrarr.com.



Extension: Has there been any news on extending 10-ride tickets?

— Harold

Yes, Metra has extended the validity of One-Way and 10-Ride tickets that have expired since March 2020. Currently, those tickets will be accepted through Sept. 30, 2021. Paper tickets that expired can be used on the trains up to and including Sept. 30, 2021. If you have Ventra tickets that expired or will expire, please contact covid19ticketinfo@metrarr.com so we can arrange to replace those tickets.

Expansion: Many years ago Metra floated the concept of a "SouthEast Service" as far as Balmoral Park. Would that be impacted by the South Shore Line's plans to establish service to Dyer, Indiana?

— Peter

While the planned South Shore West Lake Corridor improvements would have some impact on the market area of the proposed SouthEast Service, Metra has not taken a revised position regarding the line at this time. Like other proposed new lines and line extensions, the SouthEast Service proposal was placed in the unconstrained portion of CMAP's ON TO 2050 plan, which means they must wait until additional funding is secured.

Addition: When is Metra going to add trains to the schedules?

— L.P.

We are carefully monitoring ridership and we will be adding cars to trains and trains to schedules to maintain the ability for our customers to physically distance from one another as much as and as long as possible. We know how important it is for our

riders to feel safe on our trains, and giving you plenty of room to spread out is part of that. We are also tracking ridership patterns and are prepared to adopt new schedules that meet those patterns. We may adopt a schedule, for instance, that offers more frequent service in the off-peak hours to meet flexible work schedules and non-work trips.

We're Positive: Do crews still have to go through all the Positive Train Control (PTC) procedures when trains are just moving a short distance to and from the downtown terminals and the nearby storage yards?

— Miles

Thanks for the question. Yes, Metra trains in revenue service or shuttling between our yards are required to be PTC-active.

METRA BY THE NUMBERS

Counting the lines owned by other railroads, there are **565 grade crossings** in the Metra system - locations where railroad tracks intersect with local roads. As you might

expect, those crossings take a beating from Metra's **692 weekday trains** and local traffic. Metra and its freight partners usually replace about **30 grade crossings** each year.



CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

1. Cut ties
6. Shut the door hard
10. Allows
14. Upper-crust
15. Alaskan city on Seward Peninsula
16. Hero
17. Vote for
18. Field
19. Monster
20. Misleading fish?
22. Requirement
23. Texting guffaw
24. Paramedic service
26. ___ with (pile on)
30. Far-seeing avian pupil?
35. Groups of three
36. Usage fee
37. Shades
38. Sprawled like ___ doll.
39. Table lace
40. "I smell ___"
41. Hip coronavirus abbreviation
42. Charged atoms
43. Writing
44. Waterfowl's final act?
46. Family symbols
47. M.D.
48. Frazier or Biden
49. Grating
52. Consuming a humiliating avian meal?
59. Sandwich cookie
60. Resident of Belgrade

61. Scent
62. Legal claim
63. One of the Great Lakes
64. Thought
65. Swirl
66. Soaks up
67. North suburban expressway

DOWN

1. Wizard
2. Women's mag
3. Competed
4. Engrave
5. Says again
6. Growl
7. Actress Loughlin
8. Prayer ender
9. Frugally
10. Leo's cut?
11. Brink
12. Ripped
13. Iditarod transportation
21. Fish eggs
25. Doc
26. Sirius, Rigel and Vega
27. Pointer
28. Goddess of the hunt
29. Show with Lassie and Pokey?
30. Spring sound
31. Evils
32. French currency
33. Bread ingredient
34. ___ Park, Colo.

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | |
| 14 | | | | | 15 | | | | 16 | | | | |
| 17 | | | | | 18 | | | | 19 | | | | |
| 20 | | | | 21 | | | | | 22 | | | | |
| | | | 23 | | | | 24 | 25 | | | | | |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | | | 30 | 31 | | | 32 | 33 | 34 | |
| 35 | | | | | 36 | | | | 37 | | | | |
| 38 | | | | 39 | | | | | 40 | | | | |
| 41 | | | | 42 | | | | 43 | | | | | |
| 44 | | | | 45 | | | 46 | | | | | | |
| | | | 47 | | | | 48 | | | | | | |
| 49 | 50 | 51 | | | 52 | 53 | 54 | | | 55 | 56 | 57 | 58 |
| 59 | | | | | 60 | | | | 61 | | | | |
| 62 | | | | | 63 | | | | 64 | | | | |
| 65 | | | | | 66 | | | | 67 | | | | |

Crossword solution can be found online at metrarail.com/crosswordsolution

36. Warner Bros. creation
39. Religious subdivisions
43. Before the Super Bowl
45. Picard's command: "Make it ___"
46. Criminal
48. Agrees
49. Part

50. Dry
51. Plant
53. Relating to aircraft
54. Journey
55. Dirt
56. Got up
57. Sign
58. Used pieces of gum



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Works on loan from the Olmedo Museum

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