

Renovations coming to Olympia Fields, Chicago State University Metra electric line stations



Rendering of planned renovation to Olympia Fields Metra station. (Metra)

Metra

With major renovations already underway at several Metra Electric line stations, more work is planned for Olympia Fields and Chicago State University stops.

New sources of funding allowed Metra to infuse more into outdated and inaccessible commuter rail stations on the line that extends from the heart of Chicago to Governors State University, according to Metra Communications Director Michael Gillis.

He said capital funding granted by the General Assembly over past years in addition to federal infrastructure money have provided Metra “more capital money than we’ve ever had in our history.”

Conditions of certain stations have repeatedly raised concerns among elected officials and advocates. Last summer, [stairs caved in](#) at the University Park station, injuring one, six years after Metra agreed to begin upgrades there.

“We made the repairs to the stairway there,” Gillis said. “We do have plans to do a full rehab there, but those are in the early stages, so early that we don’t really have a timeline for that yet.”

In Olympia Fields, Sharpwatch Community Action Group celebrated the announcement of renovations to the 203rd Street stop near the Olympia Fields Country Club. Sharpwatch President Eugene Broyles said he began requesting work in 2020 to improve the station’s accessibility for people with disabilities and provide better shelter for people waiting for the train.

“It’s kind of like the gateway to our community when people come to visit,” Broyles said. “I’ve written to Metra several times in the wintertime, and it does have a wall to protect the riders from the weather, wind, snow and rain, but it’s not a very pleasant place to be.”

Gillis said Metra is investing \$3.4 million in preliminary engineering, environmental review and final design phase activities for the Olympia Fields station as well as \$17.7 million for construction to begin in 2026. The existing tunnel will be gutted and repaired after complaints of water leakage, he said, and passengers can expect amenities such as LED monitors, lighting and signage.