

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Minor schedule changes start Sept. 3 on 5 lines

Pilot programs for more weekend service to continue on UP-NW and BNSF; Heritage Corridor, Rock Island and UP West lines will see minor changes

CHICAGO (Aug. 19, 2019) – Metra will introduce new schedules Sept. 3 on five Metra lines that contain mostly minor adjustments and include the continuation of a pilot program that added weekend service on the UP Northwest and BNSF lines.

The summer pilot schedules were started in June to give customers more weekend options. On the UP Northwest Line, five new inbound and five new outbound trains were added on Saturdays, and three new inbound and three new outbound trains were added on Sundays/holidays, including new express trains to and from Arlington Heights. On the BNSF Line, a train was added in each direction to Saturday and Sunday schedules.

Those new trains were well-used and Metra now will continue the pilot program until further notice. A similar Saturday pilot program on the Rock Island Line will not be continued this fall but may be reintroduced next summer, although we did retain one new train from that pilot. The weekday changes made to the Rock Island schedule in January will continue.

The full schedules can be viewed at metrail.com. A summary of the changes is below.

BNSF

- Train 1255, the 4:50 p.m. departure from Chicago Union Station, will now terminate in Aurora at 6 p.m. The last stop is currently Fairview Avenue at 5:30 p.m. Several customers who board the train at Riverside and other intermediate stations requested this change so they could get to Aurora without transferring to another train.
- Train 1375, the 4:53 p.m. departure from Union Station, will make its last stop in Hinsdale at 5:30 p.m., instead of Highlands at 5:26 p.m. This change will enable customers who want to travel farther west on the line to transfer to Train 1263, which stops at Hinsdale at 5:37 p.m.
- Trains 1281 (6:02 p.m. departure from Union Station), 1295 (9:40 p.m. departure from Union Station), 1297 (10:40 p.m. departure from Union Station) and 1294 (9:02 p.m. arrival at Union Station) will have their run times minorly adjusted.

UP Northwest

- In addition to the continuation of the weekend pilot program, weekend train numbers are being changed for the sake of consistency.

Heritage Corridor

- All three morning inbound trains will have their stop times at intermediate stations adjusted to reflect operating conditions, although the departure times from Joliet and arrival times at Union Station will not change.

Rock Island

- Train 302, the current 7:35 a.m. arrival at LaSalle Street, will now make a stop at 103rd Street, and its scheduled arrival time will change to 7:40 a.m.
- Train 418, the 3:35 p.m. arrival at LaSalle, will make a flag stop at 35th Street at 3:15 p.m., instead of 3:18 p.m.
- Train 503, the 7:44 a.m. departure from LaSalle Street, will convert some regular stops to flag stops along the Beverly Branch. (Trains serve flag stops only when customers are visible on the platform or customers on the train tell the conductor they want to get off.)
- Trains 613 (5:05 p.m. departure from LaSalle), 615 (5:25 p.m. departure), 617 (5:40 p.m. departure) and 619 (5:55 p.m. departure) will have their run times adjusted.
- The weekend pilot, which added six inbound and six outbound trains on Saturdays (designated with a '700' number), will end. But a new Train 229 will depart from LaSalle at 10 p.m. on Saturdays and make all stops along the Beverly Branch and mainline.

UP West

Schedules of some off-peak trains are being adjusted to accommodate the federally mandated Positive Train Control (PTC) safety system, which requires more time before each departure to initialize, or to address other operational issues. Only the departure time from the first station is listed below, but the departure times from all other stations will be adjusted accordingly.

- Train 44 will now depart Elburn at 10:25 a.m. instead of 10:18 a.m.
- Train 48 will now depart Elburn at 12:25 p.m. instead of 12:18 p.m.
- Train 50 will now depart Elburn at 1:25 p.m. instead of 1:18 p.m.
- Train 52 will now depart Elburn at 2:25 p.m. instead of 2:18 p.m.
- Train 54 will now depart Elburn at 3:25 p.m. instead of 3:18 p.m.
- Train 60 will now depart Elmhurst at 6:35 p.m. instead of 6:28 p.m.
- Train 25 will now depart Ogilvie Transportation Center at 8:25 a.m. instead of 8:40 a.m.
- Train 29 will now depart Ogilvie at 10:25 a.m. instead of 10:40 a.m.
- Train 31 will now depart Ogilvie at 11:25 a.m. instead of 11:40 a.m.
- Train 33 will now depart Ogilvie at 12:25 p.m. instead of 12:40 p.m.
- Train 35 will now depart Ogilvie at 1:25 p.m. instead of 1:40 p.m.

###

About Metra

Metra is one of the largest and most complex commuter rail systems in North America, serving Cook, DuPage, Will, Lake, Kane and McHenry counties in northeastern Illinois. The agency provides service to and from downtown Chicago with 242 stations over 11 routes totaling nearly 500 route miles and approximately 1,200 miles of track. Metra operates nearly 700 trains and provides nearly 290,000 passenger trips each weekday.

Connect with Metra: [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [YouTube](#) | [Instagram](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [metrarail.com](#)

###

About Metra

Metra is one of the largest and most complex commuter rail systems in North America, serving Cook, DuPage, Will, Lake, Kane and McHenry counties in northeastern Illinois. The agency provides service to and from downtown Chicago with 242 stations over 11 routes totaling nearly 500 route miles and approximately 1,200 miles of track. Metra operates nearly 700 trains and provides nearly 290,000 passenger trips each weekday.

Connect with Metra: [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [YouTube](#) | [Instagram](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [metrarail.com](#)