



CTA Quick Guide


Welcome, NeoCon 2001 Attendees!

From the Chicago Transit Authority's train station on the second floor of the Merchandise Mart, you can take either Brown Line or Purple Line trains to visit major Chicago attractions, or travel around the downtown "Loop."

- Brown Line trains run until 12:05 a.m. weekdays; Purple Line trains run weekday rush hours.
- Both lines go downtown around the Loop elevated tracks.
- Signs on the trains going downtown will read "Loop" in white text on either a brown or purple background.
- When trains are going away from downtown, Brown Line trains will have a sign showing "Kimball." Purple Line trains will have a sign showing "Linden."
- Schedules are posted at the station.

Paying Fares

1. The CTA uses an automated farecard system. Transit Cards must be purchased before going through the turnstile to board the train; buy them from machines at the station from a \$1.50 up to \$91.00. Cards deduct as follows: 1st ride \$1.50; 2nd ride in 2 hours 30¢; 3rd ride in 2 hours, free.
2. To use your Transit Card, insert in any turnstile, remove and go through. You do not need a farecard to exit a station.



Service to the Airports

Midway Airport (30 min. from downtown)

1. Take a southbound Brown Line train to the Washington/Wells elevated station.
2. Use the stairs to make a free connection to the Orange Line on the opposite platform.
3. Take the Orange Line train (with the train sign showing "Midway") to Midway Airport.

O'Hare International Airport (approximately 45 min. from downtown)

Afternoons from 3:40 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.:

1. Take a Purple Line train south (one stop) to the Clark/Lake elevated station.
2. Use the elevators or escalators located in the adjacent building to make a free connection to the Blue Line subway.
3. Take the Blue Line subway train (with the train sign showing "O'Hare") to O'Hare Airport.

At all other times:

1. Take the Brown Line train south to the Clark/Lake elevated station and follow directions 2 and 3 from above.
2. Or, from the Merchandise Mart, walk two blocks south on Wells to Lake Street to the Blue Line subway. There is an automated entrance for fare cards or coins. (Farecards not sold there; purchase at Merchandise Mart station.)

Be sure to pick up a CTA Downtown Transit Sightseeing Guide at the Merchandise Mart station, for information on getting around town on CTA buses and trains.



take it.