



# BUILDING A NEW CHICAGO



## Notice of Temporary Road Closure on Chicago Avenue

As you may be aware, the Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT) is planning for the replacement of the Chicago Avenue Bridge over the North Branch of the Chicago River. The current bridge was constructed in 1914 and requires full replacement to safely maintain and support the volume of vehicle, bus, bicycle and pedestrian traffic in this active corridor. The first phase of our work will begin this fall, involving the demolition of the existing bridge and replacement with a new interim bridge structure. Construction and installation of the permanent structure is expected to occur in 2021.

**Beginning November 1, the work we are doing on the Chicago Ave. Bridge will require closing Chicago Ave. between Larrabee and Halsted Streets.** The full project to replace the bridge will last five months. However, the roadway on Chicago Ave. is scheduled to reopen early next year. After the reopening of the roadway, the final month will consist of installing new road and navigational lighting.

CDOT has established marked detours in place for bicyclists, pedestrians, personal vehicles, buses and trucks (see attached exhibit). CDOT is making every effort to keep traffic disruptions as short as possible. CDOT is also limiting other construction on the detour routes, and restricting parking to maximize road capacity.

CDOT has also partnered with CTA to initiate an innovative pilot program to help mitigate the impact of the bridge detour for the 15,000 daily bus riders in this corridor. In order to maintain service reliability and trip speed for CTA bus route #66 Chicago customers, a temporary, shared bus-bike lane will be installed on Halsted Street between Chicago Avenue and Division Street, in both directions. The shared bus-bike lane will be curbside and have no impact on normal traffic flow or roadway capacity along Halsted. The shared bus-bike lane will be exclusive to CTA buses and bicycles. Parking will be restricted in this area to accommodate the bus-bike lane. CDOT and CTA encourage the use of public transportation during the construction detour.

We will communicate regularly with stakeholders on the progress of this project. We urge you to add your contact information to our project update email distribution list being managed by the resident engineer **Andrew Mey** at **312.914.5461** or by email at **[amey@benesch.com](mailto:amey@benesch.com)** Please feel free to contact him if you have any questions during the course of the project.

Thank you for your understanding and patience while we undertake this critical infrastructure project. Please share this information with others to help increase awareness, including employees, residents, customers, or others as may be applicable. ■

