

CTA TO LAY RAIL IN EXPRESSWAY STARTING AUG. 1

Plans W. Side Service by End of 1956

BY HAL FOUST

The Chicago transit authority expects to start laying rails in the Congress st. expressway the week after next. Virgil Gunlock, CTA chairman, said yesterday the track crews were scheduled to begin their job Aug. 1 in the half mile sector between Kostner av. and Pulaski rd.

"We are going to have rapid transit service on the west side by the end of next year," said Gunlock, "if we have to work contracts on top of each other.

It's Rush Job

"The contractors for sewers, grading, paving, tracks, lighting and landscaping don't like to work simultaneously in the same location. They get in each other's way. But this is a rush job, and they will have to be forbearing. The authorities—the state, county, and city—are going to see that it is a rush job.

"The CTA track crews will move into sector after sector, just as fast as the highway engineers will give us clearance. We'll run trains before the signal installations and the stations are completed."

Gunlock will plan next week with highway engineers of the state, city and county for a rapid transit right of way in each of the 31 miles of expressway to be built under the 245 million dollar bond issue by the county authorized by the legislature last month.

Reserved for Extension

On each of the expressways in this program—Northwest, southwest, south, and west from the central business district—the center of the right of way will be reserved for future extensions of CTA rapid transit rails. That was the design contemplated when the bond issue proposal was advanced by Dan Ryan, president of the Cook county board, and William J. Mortimer, county highway superintendent. It was the plan envisioned in the endorsement by Gov. Stratton and by Mayor Daley.

"It is a prospect for the greatest expansion of mass transportation facilities in Chicago in our generation," said Gunlock. "The Congress st. plan is almost a reality. The others should be built within a few years."

The other routes in the expressway system are: Northwest from the Loop to Edens expressway and to O'Hare airport; southwest from the central business district, using the Illinois-Michigan canal bed as right of way for much of the distance; and south from the central business district to connect with Calumet expressway and with the Indiana turnpike via the Calumet toll skyway.