

CONGRESS ST. SUBWAY WILL BE EXTENDED

Aurora-Elgin Aid Envisioned

(Map on page 2)

The state highway department disclosed late yesterday that it has signed an agreement providing for an extension of the open cut subway in Congress st. super-highway from Chicago's city limits to Des Plaines av., Forest Park.

The plan is designed to answer complaints of commuters from western suburbs.

The action was described by officials as the "crucial point" clearing up the last big stretch of right-of-way for the Congress st. project. The agreement involves 3½ miles—from Lotus av. [5440 west] in Chicago to the Forest Park subway terminal.

Commuters Complain

The agreement is part of a complicated arrangement involving state and county highway departments, the Chicago transit authority, and the Chicago Aurora & Elgin railroad.

The matter was agreed to informally last summer by all parties. The situation became muddled recently because of complaints about the termination of the Aurora and Elgin service in Forest Park and the transfer of passengers there to the Garfield Park "L" line.

Responding to complaints from west suburban commuters, Gov. Stratton recently threatened to stop the state's share of work on the Congress st. super-highway unless plans were made to renew Aurora and Elgin service to and from the Loop.

Budd May Sign

"In signing the agreement, the state highway department has made new plans which will leave the door open for the possibility of Loop service in the future by the Aurora and Elgin," a spokesman said.

The new plans call for enough space for three tracks, one of which would be for express or Aurora and Elgin trains. Originally, the state plans provided for only two subway tracks.

Ralph Budd, CTA chairman, has been authorized by the CTA board to sign the agreement. It already has been signed by the county highway department, responsible for providing subway right-of-way from Lotus av. to the city limits at Austin blvd. Originally the open cut subway was to have gone only to Lotus.

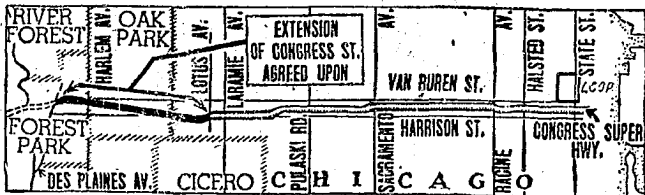
Relocation of "L"

The agreement requires the county and state to relocate the Garfield Park "L" tracks to the new open cut subway route when it has been excavated, probably in 1955.

The CTA board is expected at a meeting tomorrow to authorize the payment of 1 million dollars to the Aurora and Elgin for tracks and other equipment between Laramie av. and Des Plaines av., Forest Park. Next Monday, the state and county are scheduled to buy this right-of-way for Congress st. from the Aurora and Elgin for \$2,220,000 in a friendly condemnation suit in Circuit court.

Obtain Last Link in Expressway

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Map shows acquisition of the final link in right of way for Congress expressway.

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