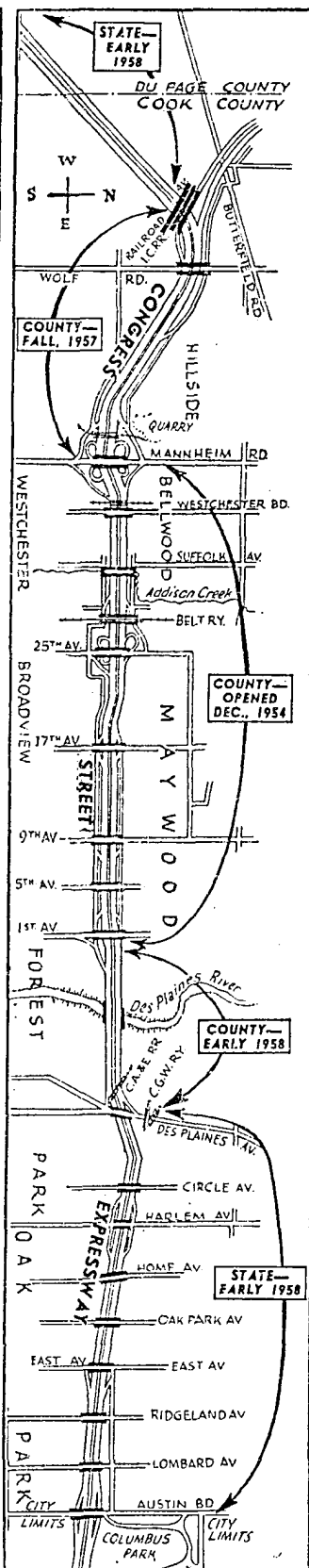
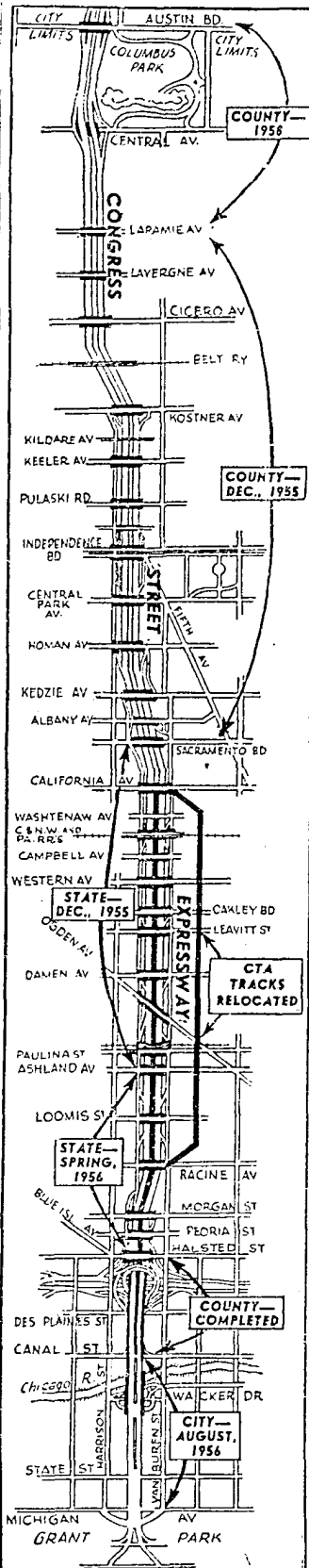


Progress on Congress Expressway



Open Congress Expressway 4 1/2 Miles Before Christmas

Four and a half miles of the Congress st. expressway are to be opened to traffic before Christmas, according to Roger Nusbaum, expressway engineer for the Illinois highway department, but it will be 1958 before the superhighway is completed from Michigan av. to the DuPage-Cook county line.

These four and a half miles are from Ashland av. west to Laramie av. From Ashland for a half mile west to Damen av., the contractor has been delayed by a national shortage in Portland cement, but he is expected to get materials so he can start surfacing on Oct. 17.

Traffic Jams Anticipated

Traffic jams are anticipated at both ends of this four and a half miles. On the east end, Nusbaum said that temporary ramps to relieve congestion are to be built in Congress at Ashland and at Damen and Western avs. Nothing is scheduled in the way of emergency structures to ease the anticipated congestion of west bound traffic approaching Laramie av.

"The evening rush hour traffic will have to learn to accommodate itself," said Nusbaum. "A large number will probably find that it is more expeditious to leave Congress st. at Kostner av. rather than to stall thru a mile of congestion farther west to Laramie."

State Pushes Work

East from Ashland av. to Halsted st., the state expects to finish by the spring of next year. Between Des Plaines st. and Halsted is to be an elaborate interchange to connect with a north and south expressway. The Congress st. paving thru this interchange has been built by the city.

The Cook county highway department has completed an elevated highway between Des Plaines and Canal st. East of Canal, the city's construction on an arcade thru the post office is scheduled for completion next August, with Mayor Daley insisting that contractors employ double shifts.

East of the post office, a new Congress st. bridge over the south branch of the Chicago river will be finished by the end of this year. On the plaza east of the river, where there are to be connections with the double decked Wacker dr., the

city is to award contracts this month with a proviso that three shifts be employed for round the clock work for completion next June.

Set June Goals

Next June, a subway for Congress st. is to be finished under the tracks of the La Salle st. railroad station. Thence east to State st., Congress has been rebuilt as a wide street at grade. From State to Michigan av. the widening involves arcading the buildings so the sidewalks can be recessed. This will be done by next June.

West of Laramie to the city limits at Austin blvd., the county highway department expects to finish by early 1958. From Austin thru Oak Park to Des Plaines av. is a state highway sector. Railroad tracks and utilities are now being moved. Nusbaum estimated it would be open to traffic by early '58.

The Cook county highway department has the tough sector between Des Plaines av. and 1st av. Graves are now being moved from the right of way. William J. Mortimer, county highway superintendent, guesses that the expressway will be ready for traffic here by the spring of 1958.

One County Section Open

From 1st av., Maywood to Mannheim rd., traffic has been traveling 2 1/2 miles of expressway since December of last year. This was built by the county.