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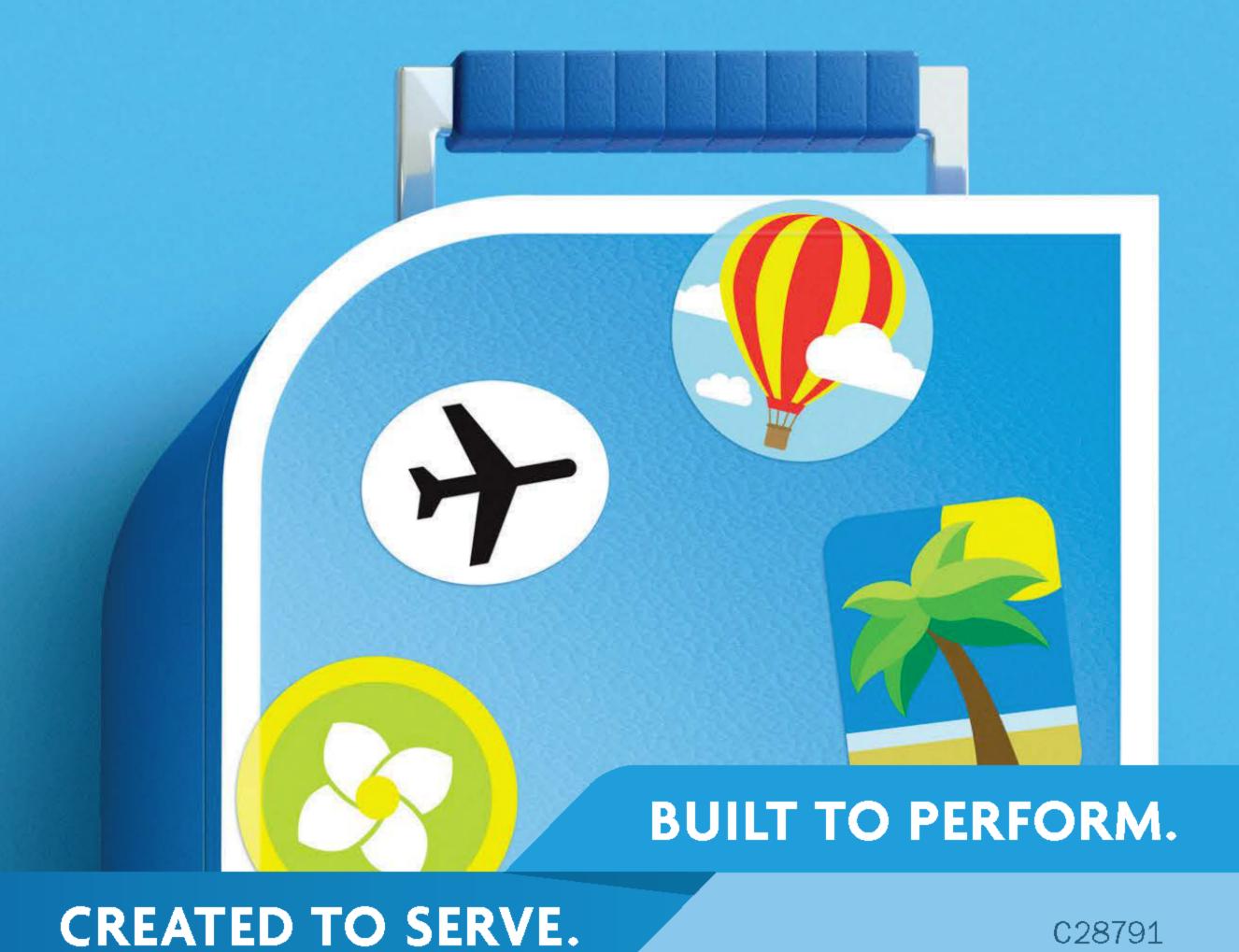


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## Chicago Transit Authority Station Review: Harrison Red Line

Soren Spicknall **COPY EDITOR** 

Situated between two popular transfer points just outside the Loop, the Harrison Red Line station is one of the lowest-traffic CTA train stations in the core of the city. The Roosevelt Red, Green, and Orange line station receives the bulk of traffic headed toward the hot South Loop and the semi-combined Jackson Red and Blue line station fills up with office workers at the beginning and end of each weekday, leaving Harrison as an awkward middle child with no available transfer points and a mix of housing, businesses, and cultural institutions that lacks the sheer density of more central CTA stops like Randolph & Wabash or State & Lake. Its only major crowding occurs when Jones College Prep, one of CPS's largest physical buildings, lets out from classes each weekday afternoon. Condition – 13/15

Like many stations along the Red Line, Harrison recently underwent thorough renovations. In 2014, the entirety of its flooring was replaced with new granite tiles, and significant waterproofing work was undertaken. Additionally, the stairs leading into the station at both its main entrance and its auxiliary Polk Street entrance underwent repairs to aid leveling, and lighting was upgraded to full LED bulbs, a first for any CTA

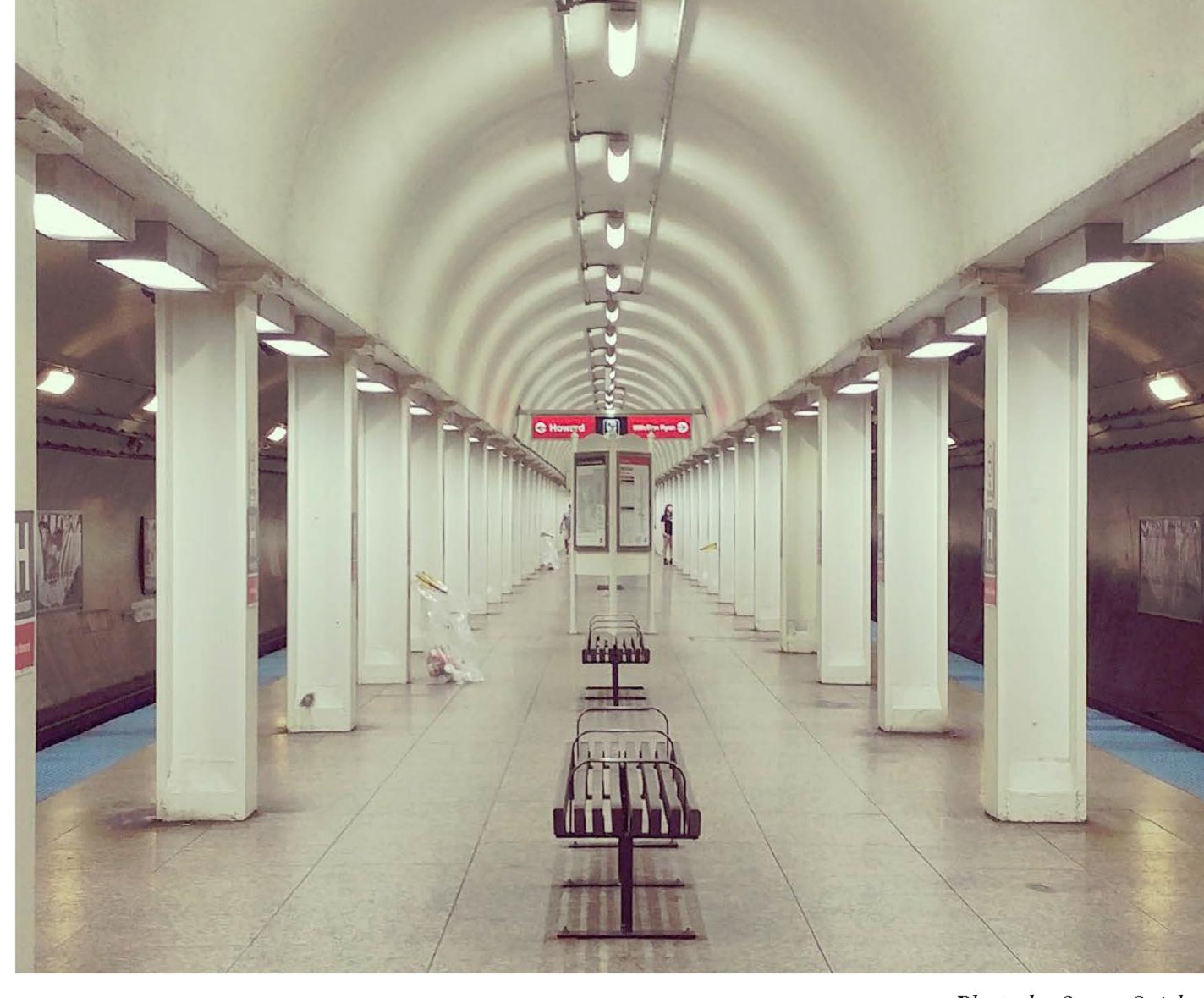


Photo by Soren Spicknall

station. Despite all those changes, though, a few years that they can't possibly be completely small issues still exist with the station's physical fixed, and columns on the station platform still condition. The newly leveled main entrance exhibit small leaks (though not on nearly the stairs are still worn enough from previous same scale as in the past). Appearance – 11/15

During 2014's renovations, the CTA stated that a number of unique design strategies would be employed in the station to reflect the neighborhood around Harrison. Random tile patterns were employed for an up-to-date atmosphere, and the station's primary entrance takes the form of a contemporary glass box today, meant to correspond to the body design of Jones College Prep nearby. All surfaces inside the station are remarkable clean and well-maintained, especially in comparison to neighboring stations Jackson and Roosevelt, a product both of the renovation and Harrison's low traffic. Convenience – 8/20

While Harrison's location along State Street inherently places it near important buildings like the Harold Washington Library, and its proximity to the Loop automatically means it's a go-to for certain commuters, the station is hurt significantly by the stature of the other CTA stations that are near it. Without any transfers, Harrison isn't very useful for those who don't live or work in its immediately proximity, since anybody going further afield than Lou Malnati's or Jones College Prep is better served by another station. It's close to a huge number of important Chicago destinations, but it's often not close enough to be worth stopping at. That said, the station's low overall traffic does make it convenient for the times when you're headed specifically to its immediate surroundings.

## Hot air balloon festival takes flight in Harvard, Illinois during Labor Day weekend

Steven Moreno TECHNEWS WRITER

The quiet town of Harvard, Illinois town's first annual balloon festival. The event, they referred to as "Plan B". which took place on Sunday and Monday this

ride was refunded, but there was still hope for balloons and the equipment which keeps them sprung to life this Labor Day weekend, with the a fun evening as the operators resorted to what afloat.

nearby. The balloon-maestro (yes, that was his to emit flames that soared over 20 feet into scaring any kids that crossed his path.

official title) had ordered all balloons grounded the air. Once the balloons and fuel sources

While the balloon operators were This Plan B was the night balloon—busy setting up their equipment, vendors and—other nearby locations is during the weekend, holiday weekend, did have some difficulties—glow, which was to be the balloons being filled—food trucks gathered across the parking lot—when Metra provides a discounted price for when it came to the balloons themselves. With and lit with the intense fire that kept them to serve and entertain the crowds. Musicians tickets which are good for the entire weekend each hot air balloon being at the mercy of the afloat. Due to the no fly order, the balloons had and artists gathered to sell their products and and Monday whenever it is a federal or state weather in which it finds itself, the conditions to be anchored down with cars, weights, and perform to the crowds waiting for the balloon holiday such as Labor Day or Columbus Day. had to be just right to ensure the balloons did people to keep them from lifting off. Not all of display to open to the general public. One The transportation center is serviced daily by not land in Lake Michigan, nearby antennas, the balloons were set up; instead, their baskets entertainer even dressed up as a Velociraptor the CTA Green Line, CTA buses, and by the or near any other equally dangerous locations—and heat emitters were left out and turned on—and roamed the park, posing for pictures and—IIT Shuttle Bus on weekdays.

Harvard, Illinois is one of the farthest in the afternoon when the eastern blowing were secure and protected, the public was free towns serviced by the Chicago Metra and can wind picked up. Everyone who had paid for a to roam the set up area and see up close the be reached by the Union Pacific Northwest Metra line, which leaves daily from the Ogilvie Transportation Center. Due to the far distance, one of the best times to reach Harvard and





## Auto show and more during Labor Day weekend in Kenosha, Wisconsin

Steven Moreno **TECHNEWS WRITER** 

Kenosha this Labor Day weekend. From a cars began to pack up and leave their spots on listen to some of their favorite songs as many classic auto show, to sailboat rides and farmers' the sides of the road, but these car enthusiasts of the musician were open to requests from the market, Kenosha was one of the best places to were not done just yet. For the last few hours crowd. be this holiday weekend. Being in Wisconsin, of daylight, the classic cars and roadsters the state which is best known for its dairy, the drove around the town at slow speeds, so that event was so eloquently dubbed the Kenosha onlookers could watch these works of art in "Cheezapalooza". From Cheese Curds, to motion. Green Bay Packers merchandise, there was known dairyland.

There was no lack of events in owners. As the day progressed, more and more concert stages, where locals and visitors alike year.

no doubt that you had entered America's well the main festival area, where local farmers, as the Museum of the Civil War in Upper is serviced daily by the CTA Green Line, CTA artists, merchants, food trucks and vendors Midwest, the Kenosha Public Museum, buses and by the IIT Shuttle Bus on weekdays. Throughout the town's downtown had set up shop. In addition to the cheese the Dinosaur Discovery Museum, and the

In addition to the events that occurred this weekend, the town of Kenosha the Chicago Metra and is the terminus for the has a multitude of events and attractions that occur and remain open throughout the year. and from the Ogilvie Transportation Center in Meanwhile, by the town harbor was The town is home to several museums such downtown Chicago. The transportation center

across the Midwest. These cars were proudly numerous festival classics such as shaved will be open in Kenosha every Saturday till the displayed and some were even up for sale to ice, roasted corn, and deep fried Oreos. In end of October and several art galleries will anyone who was willing to barter with their—the middle of the market area were multiple—be on display across the town throughout the

> Though the city is located in another state, the journey to Kenosha is much easier than one would think. Kenosha is the only station in the state of Wisconsin serviced by Union Pacific North Metra line, which runs to



