

CLIFF NOTES**Taking a new look at Wi-Fi for our riders**

Many of you have been masking Metra when we're going to have Wi-Fi on our trains. Last month



Alex Clifford
Metra CEO

we took a significant step towards getting that question answered. We hope to have some

good news on that front in a few short months.

First, let me back up a year or so. In 2011, we asked Wi-Fi providers to submit proposals to us for implementing Wi-Fi on the Metra system. Because of the capital funding problems that we have been writing about over the last two years, the request came with a key provision: we were looking for a provider willing to pay the upfront costs. That didn't necessarily mean Wi-Fi would be free to riders; only that Metra would not have to pay the installation bills.

That process, however, turned out to be unsuccessful. So now we are taking a different approach.

Last month, the Metra Board of Directors authorized
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Bryan Heriaud, a Certified AED Specialist with Cardiac Science, demonstrates the use of an AED device while Gov. Pat Quinn and other officials follow along during a press conference in December.

AEDs now on all trains

Observant riders might have noticed by now that we've installed some small cabinets on our trains containing some pretty critical devices – automatic external defibrillators, or AEDs.

The AEDs were made possible by a grant from the Regional Transportation Authority, the sponsorship of Northwestern Medicine and the support of Gov. Pat Quinn, a longtime advocate of expanding access to emergency AEDs in public spaces. The governor joined officials from Metra, the RTA and Northwestern at a press conference at Millennium

Station in late December where we announced the installation and gave a demonstration of how AEDs work.

"Having AEDs readily available on Metra cars will save lives," Gov. Quinn said. "By being prepared, we can be ready to respond swiftly and safely in the unfortunate event of a medical emergency. By working together, we can get these critical devices in public spaces everywhere."

Metra was awarded an RTA Innovation, Coordination and Enhancement (ICE) grant for \$670,125 to fund the purchase of

the AEDs. Metra was able to save money by piggybacking on an existing State of Illinois contract for defibrillators with Cardiac Science Corp. to purchase 440 AEDs and related mounting cabinets and hardware. In addition to being placed on about 300 Metra cars, AEDs are being placed in major Metra work facilities and in its police vehicles. Cardiac Science generously donated 30 additional AEDs to Metra.

Northwestern Medicine's sponsorship of the AEDs will help offset the costs of training

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