

CHICAGO

THUR.

79
66Mostly
sunny, warm

FRI.

88
68Hot, sunny,
windy

SAT.

90
69Showers,
storms?

SUN.

89
67Showers,
storms?

Local company offers to clean CTA for free

By Kyra Kyles
REDEYE

An offer to sanitize two buses or “L” cars at no charge has attracted interest from the CTA, transit agency board chairwoman Carole Brown said Wednesday.

During the public comments portion of Wednesday’s CTA board meeting, Housh Khoshbin, the CEO of Lisle-based CleanZone Systems, said he told board members about a system he has devised to sanitize air and surfaces through an “all-natural process” of converting oxygen into ozone gas, which then targets and kills bacteria, mold and viruses.

After the meeting, Brown said she was “very excited” about Khoshbin’s pitch:

“We’re always concerned about making sure our buses and trains are clean,” Brown told the Tribune. “So anything to improve on that is something that I’m willing to explore.”

Khoshbin said he offered a free demonstration to the CTA after reading a recent RedEye investigation that revealed that randomly tested CTA surfaces registered as dirty enough to breed bacteria that could make riders sick. The dirt found on surfaces—including “L” poles, bus seats and a station railing—could have come from a number of culprits including food crumbs, skin flakes or sweat left behind by riders, according to a scientist who conducted the testing for RedEye.

“The system we use is inexpensive and safer than a lot of sanitation procedures out there,” Khoshbin told RedEye. “Not only does it kill bacteria on surfaces, it can clean the air that circulates inside buses and trains. It also removes odors and purifies everything around it.”

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A view of the Addison station from the Clark Junction tower. [NUCCIO DINUZZO/TRIBUNE PHOTO]

Fewer delays

CTA says it will run extensive tests to avoid service disruption

Chicago Tribune

Hoping to avoid another massive disruption like Monday’s cancellation of the Purple Line express service, the CTA will run extensive tests to ensure that its rail system works properly in the busy Clark Junction corridor on the North Side after weekend construction, the agency’s president said Wednesday.

Three times in the past six weeks the CTA has experienced problems in the corridor on the first weekday after a weekend of heavy construction. With nearly 1,000 Red, Brown and Purple Line trains traveling daily through the area—from Addison Street on the north to Armitage Avenue on the south and west to Southport Avenue—the disruptions have caused problems for

riders.

CTA President Frank Kruesi said the issue stems from the agency’s melding of an old signal system with a new one. Crews have been running one or two test trains after construction is finished Sunday night to ensure everything is working properly.

Though those trains haven’t detected any issues, problems have erupted the following day during rush hour.

“It’s tested,” Kruesi said. “It passes the test, but in actual rush-hour service it fails.”

On Monday, the signal system detected a hum that it perceived to be a train on an improper circuit. That triggered a safety feature that prevents more trains from passing through.

Kruesi, who recently was delayed on a Brown Line train in the corridor for 40 minutes, hopes to fix the problem by running longer test trains to better simulate rush-hour loads so that the agency can detect problems before peak travel times.

Despite the CTA’s efforts to reduce problems, delays could continue, said Glenn Zika, vice president of engineering.

“We are working on everything we can to minimize disruptions, but I can’t promise that we won’t have any delays,” Zika told the board.

Construction crews are replacing 11 crossovers and adding 11 in preparation for station work at the Belmont Avenue and Fullerton Avenue stops.

The agency also is installing new signals.

Now that Taste’s different

Chicago Tribune

It turns out a collard green egg roll tastes exactly like you’d think—except better. Much, much better.

And hallelujah, because that bit of culinary fusion shows the direction in which Taste of Chicago’s menu has been heading: bolder and more diverse. Think Cajun alligator. Wild boar sausage. Sauteed goat.

The less adventurous need not worry; old favorites, like pizza and ribs, will be plentiful at the city’s touchstone festival that runs from June 30 to July 9 at Grant Park.

But in an ethnically diverse city, organizers of the event that typically draws 3.5 million visitors said they

are always trying to increase the festival’s offerings by adding daring new dishes.

The emphasis was clear on the menus released Wednesday at a Taste preview. It was the unknown that got Renee Bradford’s restaurant, C’est Si Bon! a spot at the Taste.

About three years ago, Bradford entered her Hyde Park eatery for consideration with relatively standard fare. It wasn’t until she tempted organizers with the wildest corners of her menu—like collard green egg rolls, which she said were her brainchild—that they finally took notice.

“You never know what’s going to catch someone’s fancy,” Bradford said.



Mayor Daley checks out a chocolate treat Wednesday at a Taste of Chicago food preview.

[BONNIE TRAFELET/
TRIBUNE PHOTO]