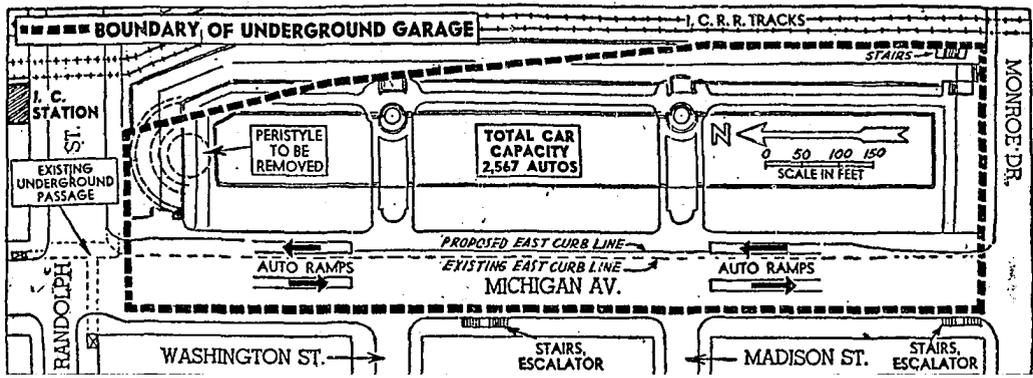


Proposed Underground Parking in Grant Park



GARAGE PLANNED FOR LAKE FRONT BENEATH PARK

Cost 8½ Millions for 2,567 Cars

An 8½ million dollar, two level garage under Michigan av. and Grant park from Randolph st. to Monroe dr. was proposed yesterday, by the park board to ease Loop area parking problems. The garage would handle 2,567 automobiles and would be financed with revenue bonds.

General plans and cost estimates for the project were given the board by Ralph H. Burke, city airport engineer and former chief engineer of the park district. The board immediately approved an ordinance to issue 8½ millions in revenue bonds for the work.

Permits Early Court Test

The board's action opens the way for an early court test of legislation authorizing it to build underground garages thru sale of revenue bonds. Also to be decided by the Supreme court is whether garages under Grant park would violate the long existing injunction against erection of structures in the park.

James H. Gately, park board president, said the State Street council and Association of Commerce were expected to initiate the court test thru a taxpayer's suit. It is estimated the Illinois Supreme court might have a decision by next May, enabling a start on construction in 1952. It would take 18 months to finish the job.

"The garage would provide parking space for 1,000 cars more than was proposed by the State Street council and Association of Commerce," said Gately. "It would go a long way as an initial step in solving the Loop area parking problems."

Entrances from Michigan Av.

Gately said the park board had Burke draw up new preliminary plans because the proposals of the council and association encroached on Art institute grounds by providing entrances curving off Monroe dr. to the subterranean garage.

Burke's preliminary plans call for entrances by descending ramps in Michigan av. One would handle northbound cars and the other would take care of southbound vehicles. Two ascending ramps in Michigan av. would provide exits from the garage.

Each garage level would contain about 400,000 square feet. The top level would accommodate 1,219 cars, and the lower level 1,348 cars. The garage would be of reinforced concrete, divided into fire control areas by walls and stairs. A sprinkling system would protect both levels from fire. Radiant heating is planned for the entrance and exit ramps to prevent ice forming on the inclines.

Burke said the first construction could start under the park area. When it is completed, plans call for building a temporary roadway in the park as a detour while Michigan av. is torn up. When the entire job is finished, Burke said, Grant park would be restored to its original condition except for

additional roadway areas that might be needed on Michigan av. and for necessary ramps, air intakes, and exhaust and pedestrian service facilities.

The garage is planned, Burke added, so that drivers can park their own cars or so that this will be done by attendants.