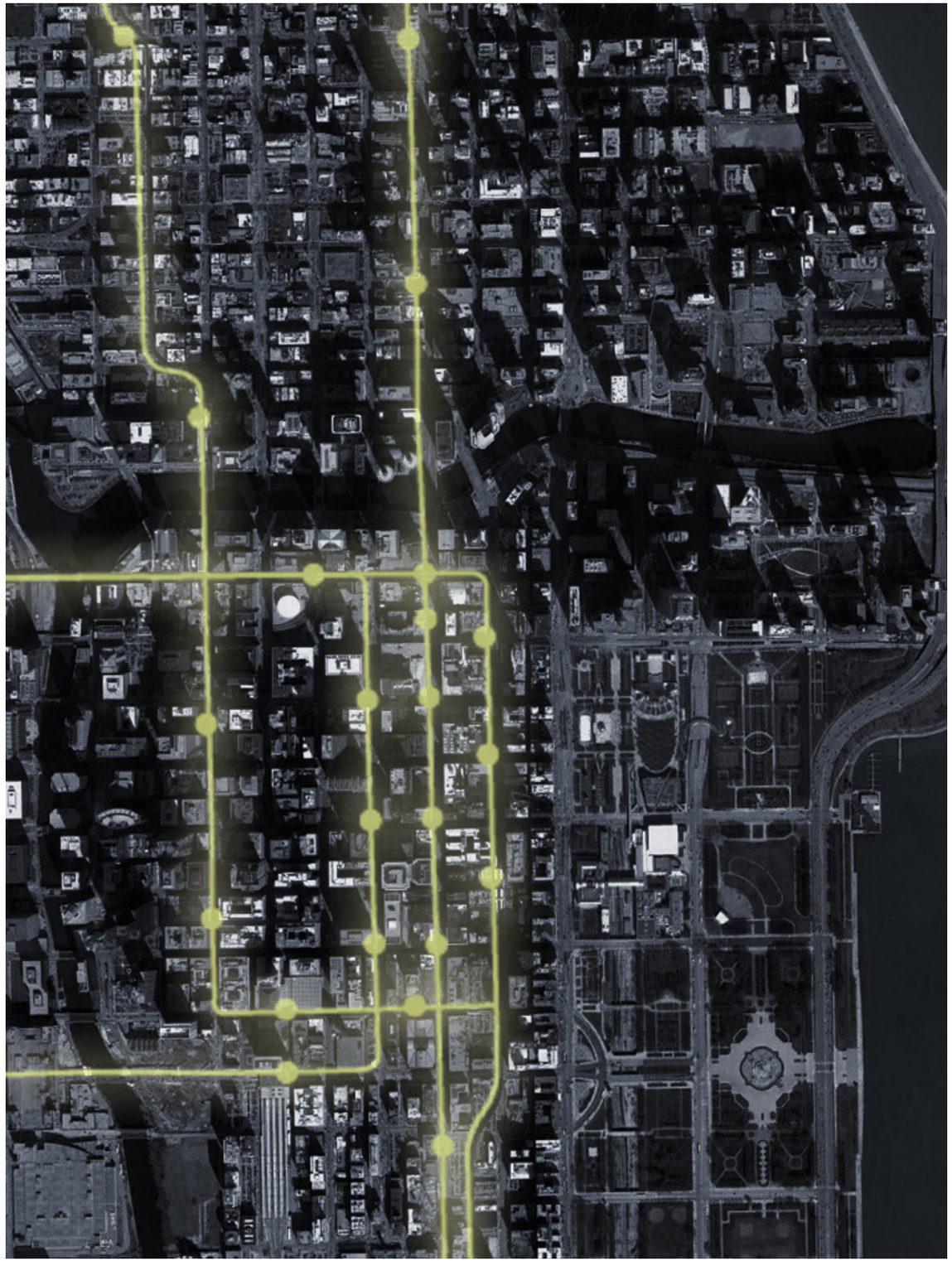
4.
the el



June 2013 | A Lighting Framework Plan for Chicago

4. The El

Chicagoans love their iconic elevated trains. The El traverses through most of Chicago's neighborhoods – making it a universal democratic element. It has the power to connect the city and its visitors. It creates interesting and fascinating spaces and shadows when it travels above grade.

It's one of the most physically striking rail systems in the world, largely because of the stations, which were designed by architects such as Harry Weese. Chicago has been using the elevated rail system since 1888. There are eight routes with 124 stations, 1,200 railcars, and 224 miles of track. Chicago is one of the few cities in the world offering rail service to two major airports. The El is frequently the first impression of the city on visitors who arrive by plane or rail. Perhaps more importantly, the El is part of most Chicago residents lives. Even if someone prefers to walk or bike or drive rather than ride the El, it is visible everywhere. The El operates as a series of landmarks and nodes that truly influence the cultural character of city neighborhoods.

5.
lower wacker drive

5.

Lower Wacker Drive

Lower Wacker Drive is just one of several underground service roads in Chicago.

In 1909, architects Daniel Burnham and Edward H. Bennett drew up a plan to unify the city's urban design and increase its physical beautification. The Burnham Plan included a recommendation for a double-decked roadway along the river, intended to relieve the congestion at River Street and Rush Street, where 50% of the city's north–south traffic crossed the Chicago River. The division of traffic allows a separation between pleasure/commuter traffic and service vehicles.

Lower Wacker Drive has become an iconic element of Chicago infrastructure and often used in movie scenes for its atmospheric setting, from the Blues Brothers to the Dark Knight. When Wacker was renovated in 2001 the walkways along the river were designed to make the drive more pedestrian-friendly and the historic limestone elements were restored to the original 1926 appearance.

Section Five

Resources

Resources

Choose Chicag
ohttp://www.choosechicago.com/

2015 Sustainable Chicago Action Agenda
http://www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/progs/env/sustainable_chicago2015.html

Chicago Audobon Society Lights Out Program
http://www.chicagoaudubon.org/lightsout.shtml

Chicago Riverwalk Plan
https://www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/cdot/supp_info/chicago_riverwalk.html

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Pg. 18: Dusk in Chicago, http://www.flickr.com/photos/17587718@N00/3720383884
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Pg. 24:
Pg. 26: http://www.flickr.com/photos/nasamarshall/6852803799/
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Pg. 34: http://www.flickr.com/photos/tomholbrook/2832233606/
Pg. 36:
Pg. 40: Paddling Toward Trump Tower, https://mylifeslist.wordpress.com/category/nature-2/
Pg. 42:
Pg. 44:
Pg. 45: http://2.bp.blogspot.com/_m6IivVv8NH4/S9Ui_fQh0mI/AAAAAAAAAPk/ESyNAaHNv1U/s1600/merchmart2008.jpg
Pg. 48: Chicago Night River, http://www.flickr.com/photos/40630886@N03/7317261794
Pg. 52:
Pg 56:
Pg. 58:
Pg 60: http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/6/6f/Chicago_Downtown_Aerial_View.jpg
Pg. 62: Rendering by Gensler
Pg. 64: Rendering by Gensler
Pg. 70: Rendering by Gensler
Pg. 70:
Pg. 74:
Pg. 76: http://www.thequesadagroup.com/?_escaped_fragment_=form/c1vef
Pg. 80: Dusk in Chicago, http://www.flickr.com/photos/17587718@N00/3720383884