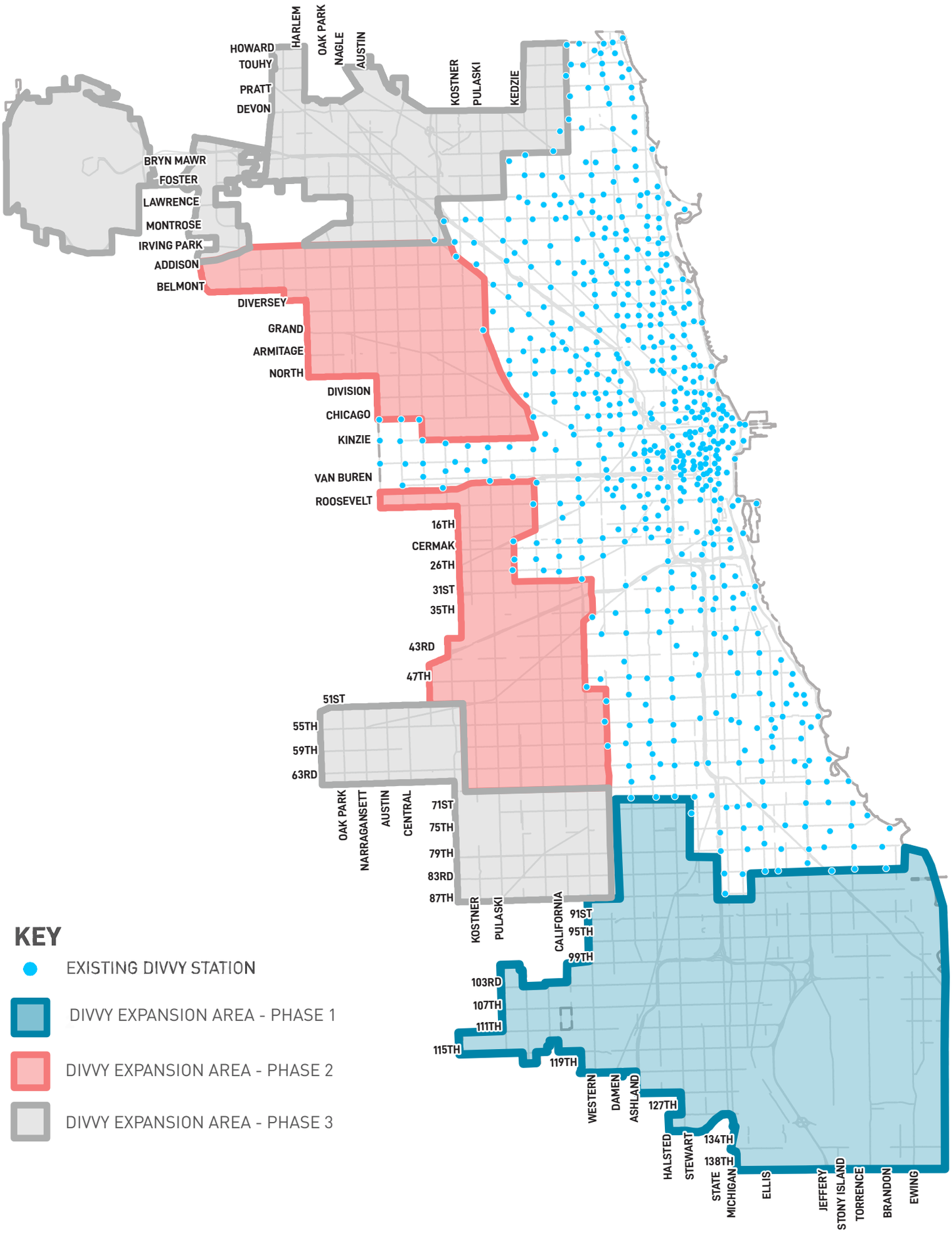EXPANSION PHASES