

NORTHWEST MUNICIPAL CONFERENCE

1600 East Golf Road, Suite 0700
Des Plaines, Illinois 60016
(847) 296-9200 • Fax (847) 296-9207
www.nwmc-cog.org



*A Regional Association of Illinois
Municipalities and Townships
Representing a Population of Over One Million*

MEMBERS

Antioch
Arlington Heights
Bannockburn
Barrington
Bartlett
Buffalo Grove
Deer Park
Deerfield
Des Plaines
Elk Grove Village
Evanston
Fox Lake
Glencoe
Glenview
Grayslake
Hanover Park
Highland Park
Hoffman Estates
Kenilworth
Lake Bluff
Lake Forest
Lake Zurich
Libertyville
Lincolnshire
Lincolnwood
Morton Grove
Mount Prospect
Niles
Northbrook
Northfield
Northfield Township
Palatine
Park Ridge
Prospect Heights
Rolling Meadows
Schaumburg
Skokie
Streamwood
Vernon Hills
West Dundee
Wheeling
Wilmette
Winnetka

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Kathleen O'Hara
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Secretary
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Deerfield

Treasurer
Ray Keller
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Executive Director
Mark L. Fowler

Northwest Municipal Conference Transportation Committee

Agenda

October 24, 2019

8:30 a.m.

NWMC Offices

**1600 East Golf Road, Suite 0700
Des Plaines, IL 60016
(map/parking permit attached)**

- I. Call to Order/Introductions**
- II. Approval of September 26, 2019 Meeting Minutes (Attachment A)**
Action Requested: Approval
- III. Pace Pulse Program Update (Attachment B)**
Pace staff will provide an update on their new rapid transit network, Pulse, which provides enhanced express bus service to commuters using the latest technology and streamlined route design.
Action Requested: Informational
- IV. IDOT Review Process and NWMC Survey Results**
Staff will discuss the compiled experiences of Conference members regarding the IDOT review process. Staff requests discussion as to how to use this input to work with IDOT to move projects forward.
Action Requested: Discussion
- V. NWMC Multimodal Plan Update**
Staff will provide an update on the progress of the Conference's multimodal plan and next steps in its development.
Action Requested: Informational
- VI. Agency Reports (Attachment C)**
- VII. Other Business**
- VIII. Adjourn**

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Skokie
Streamwood
Vernon Hills
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Winnetka

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Daniel DiMaria
Morton Grove

Secretary
Kathleen O'Hara
Lake Bluff

Treasurer
Ghida Neukirch
Highland Park

Executive Director
Mark L. Fowler

**Northwest Municipal Conference
Transportation Committee**

Minutes

September 26, 2019

8:30 a.m.

NWMC Offices

**1600 E. Golf Road, Suite 0700
Des Plaines, IL 60016**

Members Present

Joan Frazier, President, Village of Northfield, *Co-Chair*
Tim Frenzer, Village Manager, Village of Wilmette
Bill Grossi, Trustee, Village of Mount Prospect
Bob Benton, Trustee, Village of Deerfield
Karyn Robles, Director of Transportation, Village of Schaumburg
Jeff Brady, Director of Community Development, Village of Glenview
Matt Farmer, Village Engineer, Village of Northbrook
Peter Falcone, Assistant City Administrator, City of Prospect Heights
Sean Dorsey, Director of Public Works, Village of Mount Prospect
Marie Hansen, Acting Director Development Services, Village of Barrington
Lou Arrigoni, Senior Civil Engineer, City of Park Ridge
Mike Zadel, Trustee, Village of Mount Prospect
Bob Israel, Trustee, Village of Northbrook
Manny Gomez, City Engineer, City of Highland Park
Andrew Letson, Public Works Director, Village of Lincolnwood
Lara Sanoica, Alderman, City of Rolling Meadows
Anne Marrin, Village Administrator, Village of Fox Lake (via phone)

Others Present

Rick Mack, Community and Legislative Affairs Administrator, Metra
Andy Plummer, Consultant, RTA
Vicky Czuprynski, Community Relations Coordinator, Illinois Tollway
Jane Grover, Principal, CMAP
Sam Wright, Transportation Planner, Cook County Dept. of Transportation & Highways
Dan Jedrzejak, Consultant, Chastain & Associates LLC
Mark Fowler, Executive Director, Northwest Municipal Conference
Larry Bury, Deputy Executive Director, Northwest Municipal Conference
Josh Klingenstein, Program Associate for Transportation, Northwest Municipal Conference
Kendra Johnson, Program Associate for Transportation, Northwest Municipal Conference

I. Call to Order/Introductions

President Frazier called the meeting to order at 8:28 a.m. and those present gave introductions.

II. Approval of May 23, 2019 Meeting Minutes

The committee voted to approve the minutes on a motion by Mr. Frenzer, seconded by Ms. Hansen. Those who were not present at the May 23, 2019 meeting abstained from the vote.

III. Local Government Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) Distribution

Mr. Klingenstein provided an overview of the new distribution of MFT funds resulting from the increase in MFT as part of the Rebuild Illinois capital funding legislation. He noted that communities should have received their first disbursements, so they can now see the distribution formula in action.

Mr. Bury then discussed some concerns raised among NWMC members regarding the impact that additional funds, as well as new active program management policies, would have on the Illinois Department of Transportation's ability to manage this increased workload. He noted IDOT has indicated that current staffing levels will remain as they are for the next few months. Given the financial implications resulting from delay in IDOT processes, he asked for Committee feedback.

Trustee Israel noted that even if the staffing issues are addressed sooner rather than later, the hiring process will add on even more time before they are fully resolved. Ms. Robles pointed out that there is a shortage of civil engineers in general throughout the region, and that she has met with some Cook County staff to discuss the possibility of funneling funds through the County to move projects along. Mr. Letson then discussed the possibility of working with consultants to complete IDOT processes and procedures in order to relieve their workload and cut down review time. Mr. Bury then asked the Committee whether it would consider some of these ideas given the extra time and costs that would be incurred on the part of individual municipalities. Mr. Frenzer cautioned against this shift towards local agencies incurring extra burdens to move the process along, lest it becomes an arrangement that local municipalities have to shoulder long-term. Ms. Robles noted that the District office has been using consultants to help with the workload, and that perhaps Central Office could benefit from a similar arrangement. Several members then articulated their support for approaching the governor's office and key members of the legislature to work on a solution. Mr. Bury asked for members to follow up with him with examples of projects that have been negatively impacted by issues with IDOT in the past, and said that the Executive Committee would discuss the issue at their meeting next Wednesday.

IV. Surface Transportation Program (STP) Update

Mr. Klingenstein outlined the process that the Northwest and North Shore Councils of Mayors have gone through in updating their individual methodologies. He then highlighted some of the key changes that were incorporated into the latest approved versions of the STP methodologies, including the addition of CMAP regional priorities identified in ON TO 2050. He also provided examples of changes in both the scoring itself and data used to evaluate projects.

Mr. Klingenstein repeated that the STP Shared fund included two NWMC member projects. He informed the Committee that the recommended program of projects will go before the CMAP Board and the MPO Policy Committee in October for final approval. Mr. Klingenstein also noted that during the process, some applicants took issue with the practice of awarding funding to projects which could be fully funded, as opposed to sometimes higher ranking projects which were passed over because they could only be partially funded. He also noted an additional consideration to limit the Shared Fund to certain project types from year to year. Ms. Robles asked if staff could keep the municipalities aware of those discussions moving forward so that they can be plan ahead and be informed when it comes time to apply once again. Mr. Klingenstein responded that staff would keep the Committee updated.

V. NWMC Multimodal Plan Update

Ms. Johnson provided an update on several new developments in the NWMC Multimodal Plan, including a new access to transit analysis, sidewalk gap assessment, results from a bike user quiz and a priority corridor map. In terms of outreach and feedback, she noted that the steering committee has held one focus group on uncontrolled crossings, and plans to gather more feedback through additional focus groups, individual stakeholder interviews, and an Open House initially scheduled for November 6. President Frazier asked Ms. Johnson to clarify the details of the bike quiz. Ms. Johnson responded that the quiz was sent out to residents of NWMC communities to assess their comfort levels, typical habits and preferred facilities when it comes to bike travel.

VI. Transportation Committee Topics for 2019-2020

Ms. Johnson referred the Committee to the attachment in the agenda packet, which detailed several options for meeting topics to explore in the coming year. She asked for feedback on the topics were of most value, and for any additional topics not listed. Trustee Isreal suggested looking into the I-355 project, as well as emphasizing the need for IDOT review process issues to be central in any discussion of capital bill implementation. Ms. Johnson noted his suggestions and asked the Committee to advise staff of any other suggestions as they come up.

VII. Agency Reports

a. Metra – Mr. Mack provided an update on Metra’s 2020 budget process and informed the Committee that the 2020 Program and Budget is expected to be voted on and released at Metra’s October 8 Board Meeting, with public hearings throughout the region in November, including one at the Hanover Park Police Department on November 5, 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Mr. Mack also informed the Committee of several ongoing initiatives and updates to the Metra system. These include testing of a new switch monitoring system to reduce delays, a federal grant for rebuilding a bridge near the Grayland station as part of their goal to replace 10 bridges per year, and new locomotives that use AC rather than DC power.

b. CMAP – Ms. Grover informed the committee that the CMAP and RTA joint Call for Projects for Local Technical Assistance (LTA) and Community Planning

programs is open, and the deadline is October 17 before noon. She also encouraged Committee members to take advantage of the capital bill line item database as well as a newly compiled sidewalk inventory of the region. Ms. Grover reminded members of CMAP's fall event series as well as the ON TO 2050 symposium on October 10.

c. RTA – Mr. Plummer reiterated Ms. Grover's information regarding the LTA/Community Planning Call for Projects. He noted that communities who have already undergone Transit Oriented Development studies were eligible for Access to Transit funding. Mr. Plummer then requested to present at a future meeting regarding the RTA's budget process.

d. Illinois Tollway – Ms. Czaprynski noted that the "Move Over" law has been expanded to increase penalties and impose new penalties on encroachment in work zones. She encouraged Committee members to spread the word. Trustee Isreal also encouraged members to look into the "Move Over Project" on Facebook to spread awareness. Ms. Czaprynski also informed the Committee of a Kid's Identification and Safety Seat (KISS) event being held in conjunction with Illinois State Police District 15 this Saturday at the Schaumburg IKEA from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

VIII. Other Business

None.

X. Next Meeting

President Frazier informed the Committee that the next meeting would take place on October 24, 2019, 8:30 a.m. at NWMC Offices.

XI. Adjourn

The Committee voted to adjourn on a motion by Trustee Zadel, seconded by Trustee Israel.

PULSE

FALL 2019



FIRST PULSE LINE IS ON A ROLL

The first Pulse bus has officially left the station. That is—on August 11, the Pulse Milwaukee Line began operating along Milwaukee Avenue between Golf Mill Shopping Center in Niles and Jefferson Park Transit Center in Chicago. The new Pulse Line is one of 24 planned rapid transit lines that will improve access to jobs, education, medical care, shopping and entertainment.





PULSE ON THE MOVE

The good times keep rolling! Pace is diving into other Pulse projects to bring you a faster, more reliable ride to a variety of destinations.

Dempster Line

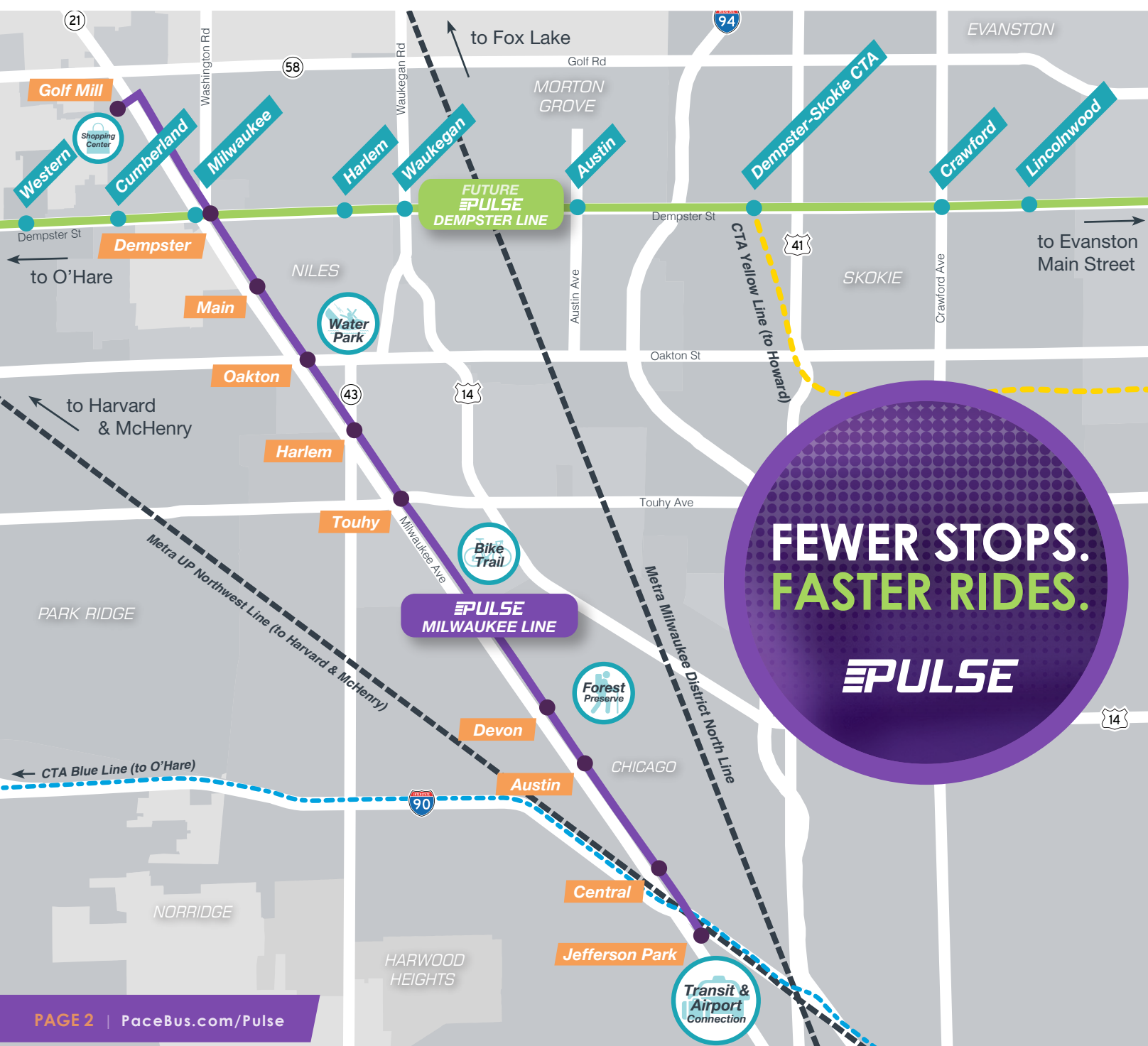
We're working with our partners to complete the design of the new Dempster Line by late 2020. Serving the communities between Evanston, Des Plaines, and O'Hare, Pulse Dempster Line will connect riders with business districts, doctors' offices, and even their next flight out of town. Construction is anticipated to begin in 2021.

Halsted Line

Pace and CTA joined forces on the South Halsted Bus Corridor Enhancement Project to improve transit along South Halsted Street between the CTA Red Line 95th/Dan Ryan Station and Pace Harvey Transportation Center, including segments of 79th and 95th Streets. The study will evaluate and determine potential transit improvements, including a Pulse Line. The new Pulse Halsted Line is anticipated to have 16 new stations and would complement the existing Pace Routes 352 and 359. An environmental review will begin in Fall 2019 and Pace is planning public meetings to gather insight on station locations. Funded by an Invest in Cook grant, the environmental analysis will help Pace develop a design that minimizes impacts on the built, natural and human environments.

95th Street Line

The Corridor Advisory Group providing input on the 95th Street Line met on May 9, 2019, and discussed the findings of the Project Definition Report. The completed report outlines the preliminary station locations, operating plans, and capital costs and can be viewed at [PaceBus.com/Pulse](https://www.pacebus.com/pulse). The environmental review will begin in late 2020 and public meetings will be used to gather feedback on the proposed Pulse Line.



Convenient Connections

Experience the new Milwaukee Line yourself! Hop on board at any of the Pulse stations along Milwaukee Avenue and check out the route map on the vertical marker. Real-time bus arrival information at the station will let you know when the next Pulse bus will arrive. From Golf Mill Shopping Center to Jefferson Park Transit Center, you'll be able to reach dozens of great destinations and connect to other transit options.

Station Status: Not all Milwaukee Line stations were fully constructed at launch. You can visit [PaceBus.com/Pulse](https://www.pacebus.com/pulse) for temporary stop locations. All stations should be complete by the end of 2019.

Providing more travel options and speeding up your journey to major destinations in Chicagoland!

17 Milwaukee Line Stations

USB PORTS
On Every Bus

BIKE RACKS
On All Buses

WI-FI
On Board

MILWAUKEE LINE SCHEDULE

Peak Hours	10 Minute Wait Time
Off-Peak Hours	15 Minute Wait Time
Late Night	20 Minute Wait Time
Weekend	≤ 30 Minute Wait Time



Share your thoughts about Pulse!
To create a Pulse Line that best serves your community, we need your input. Send us your questions, comments, and suggestions at [PaceBus.com/Pulse](https://www.pacebus.com/pulse).

Visit PaceBus.com/Pulse and sign up to receive news about upcoming meetings and other updates.



Get the latest on your Pulse Line!

Want to know more about Pulse, including the cool new bus features, modern stations, and when and where you'll get to try it all out? Visit our website and sign up for project updates at PaceBus.com/Pulse.

Near-Term Priority Corridor Projects

- 1 Milwaukee Avenue** *IN OPERATION!*
Golf Mill Mall to Jefferson Park Transit Center
- 2 Dempster Street**
CTA Purple Line Davis Station to Chicago-O'Hare Multi-Modal Facility
- 3 Halsted Street**
CTA Red Line 95th/Dan Ryan Station to Harvey Transportation Center
- 4 95th Street**
CTA Red Line 95th/Dan Ryan Station to Moraine Valley Community College
- 5 Cermak Road**
CTA Pink Line 54th/Cermak Station to Yorktown Center *
- 6 Harlem Avenue**
North Avenue to 95th Street *
- 7 Roosevelt Road**
CTA Blue Line Forest Park Station to Oakbrook Center *

* Final service alignment to be determined pending project definition study.

- Pulse in Service
- In Design
- Environmental Review
- Project Definition
- Corridor Study Complete
- Interstate Expressway System
- Major Airport
- Pace Fixed-route Bus Network
- Metra Rail Network



Metra Media Relations 312-322-6776

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Proposed 2020 budget includes no fare increase and \$480.5 million in capital spending

CHICAGO (Oct. 8, 2019) – Metra today unveiled a proposed \$827.4 million operating budget that keeps expenses in check and does not require a fare increase and outlined \$480.5 million in proposed capital spending, including major investments in locomotives and railcars, stations, bridges and yards.

Capital budget

The capital budget was significantly bolstered by the new state capital program, which over the next five years is expected to deliver nearly \$1.45 billion to Metra. When combined with \$961.8 million in expected federal formula funding, \$146 million from the RTA, \$26 million in fare revenue and \$4 million from other sources, Metra will have nearly \$2.6 billion to invest in its system over the next five years – an unprecedented amount.

In 2020, Metra expects \$205.2 million in state bond funds and \$73.7 million in what has been labeled state “pay-as-you-go” or “Paygo” funding – an annual allotment of funding tied to the state gas tax that will grow with inflation. Funding from federal (\$186.7 million) and local (\$14.9 million) sources provide additional capital funding in 2020, bringing the total to \$480.5 million.

The budget proposes to allocate \$331.1 million, or about two-thirds, of the 2020 capital funds to five major areas:

- **New railcars and new locomotives, \$138.8 million.** Metra currently has a request for proposals pending for as many as 400 new cars, and it has asked manufacturers to propose new designs that maximize capacity and add customer amenities. It also is buying some new remanufactured locomotives and has set aside some money to buy a prototype alternative fuel locomotive.
- **Locomotive and car rehabilitation, \$95.3 million.** Metra will continue its innovative and cost-efficient locomotive and car rehab programs. It also will fund new programs to overhaul 21 recently purchased Amtrak locomotives and upgrade 54 locomotives with more reliable AC traction motors.
- **Stations and parking, \$51.2 million.** Metra is undertaking major efforts to upgrade its stations, with an emphasis on improving ADA accessibility and ensuring that every station has a warming shelter. Major station projects included in the 2020 program include a new Auburn Park Station on the Rock Island Line and major upgrades to the 147th Street Station on the Metra Electric Line and Hubbard Woods on the UP North Line.

- **Yard rehabilitation, \$23.2 million.** Major projects are funded to expand the Western Avenue Yard that services trains on the Milwaukee District lines, the North Central Service and Heritage Corridor, and the California Avenue Yard that services trains on the UP lines. A lack of yard space is a factor limiting Metra's ability to add service.
- **Bridges, \$22.6 million.** Metra has nearly 500 bridges that are more than a century old. Funding will be used to design and construct the replacement of several bridges, including the next phase of the UP North bridge project involving the design for the replacement of bridges over 11 streets between Fullerton and Addison in Chicago.

Operating budget

As it does every year, Metra searched for ways to control or reduce its operating costs to head off the need for a fare increase. This year it identified nearly \$6 million in efficiencies. In addition, it expects to save about \$7 million by not filling vacancies and about \$5 million by reducing overtime and other miscellaneous expenses.

Those \$18 million in reductions will help offset an expected \$23 million increase in operating expenses next year, including about \$7 million in new operating expenses associated with Positive Train Control (PTC), a federally mandated safety system, and about \$16 million in labor and various other operating expenses.

Therefore, Metra expects its overall operating budget to increase by \$5 million next year, from \$822 million in 2019 to \$827 million in 2020, a gain of 0.6 percent. Higher revenues from the regional transportation sales tax, which funds about half of Metra's operating budget, will cover that \$5 million and no fare increase will be needed.

The proposed 2020 budget will be the subject of a series of eight public hearings throughout the Chicago area. The schedule accompanies this release. Metra customers and members of the public are encouraged to attend and provide comments on the proposed budget.

Comments on the proposed budget can also be emailed to 2020budgetcomments@metrarr.com, faxed to 312-322-7094 or mailed to the Assistant Secretary to the Metra Board, Room 1300, 547 W. Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL, 60661. Comments must be received no later than 24 hours after the last public hearing on Nov. 5. All comments received will be presented to Metra's Board of Directors prior to voting on the final budget in November 2019.

For more information about Metra's proposed 2020 budget, please visit metrarail.com.

###

About Metra

Metra is one of the largest and most complex commuter rail systems in North America, serving Cook, DuPage, Will, Lake, Kane and McHenry counties in northeastern Illinois. The agency provides service to and from downtown Chicago with 242 stations over 11 routes totaling nearly 500 route miles and approximately 1,200 miles of track. Metra operates nearly 700 trains and provides nearly 290,000 passenger trips each weekday.

Connect with Metra: [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [YouTube](#) | [Instagram](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | metrarail.com

2020 Metra budget public hearing schedule

All meetings will be from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Monday, Nov.4

McHenry County

Crystal Lake City Hall
City Council Chambers
100 W. Woodstock Street
Crystal Lake

Will County

Will County Office Building
County Board Room – 2nd Floor
302 N. Chicago Street
Joliet

Kane County

Kane County Government Center
Building A – 1st Floor Auditorium
719 S. Batavia Avenue
Geneva

City of Chicago

Metra
Board Room 13th floor
547 W. Jackson Boulevard
Chicago

Tuesday, Nov. 5

Lake County

Mundelein Village Hall
Village Board Room
300 Plaza Circle
Mundelein

South Suburban Cook County

East Hazel Crest Village Hall
Village Board Room
1904 W. 174th Street
East Hazel Crest,

DuPage County

Clarendon Hills Village Hall
Village Board Room
1 N. Prospect Avenue
Clarendon Hills

North Suburban Cook County

Hanover Park Police Department
Community Room
2011 Lake Street
Hanover Park

2020 PROGRAM & BUDGET PUBLIC HEARINGS

Metra invites you to one of its 2020 Program & Budget public hearings.

This is an opportunity for our valued riders to:

- Hear Metra's plans for 2020
- Share thoughts and ideas for Metra improvements

Dates and times for the hearings are below. We hope to see you there!

Monday, November 4, 2019 4 p.m. - 7 p.m.	Tuesday, November 5, 2019 4 p.m. - 7 p.m.
McHenry County Crystal Lake City Hall City Council Chambers 100 W. Woodstock Street Crystal Lake	Lake County Mundelein Village Hall Village Board Room 300 Plaza Circle Mundelein
Will County Will County Office Building County Board Room – 2nd Floor 302 N. Chicago Street Joliet	South Suburban Cook County East Hazel Crest Village Hall Village Board Room 1904 W. 174th Street East Hazel Crest
Kane County Kane County Government Center Building A – 1st Floor Auditorium 719 S. Batavia Avenue Geneva	DuPage County Clarendon Hills Village Hall Village Board Room 1 N. Prospect Avenue Clarendon Hills
City of Chicago Metra Headquarters Board Room, 13th fl 547 W. Jackson Boulevard Chicago	North Suburban Cook County Hanover Park Police Department Community Room 2011 Lake Street Hanover Park



Northwest Municipal Conference

Visitor's Parking Permit

(Lot D) Please place on your dashboard



Via Tri-State Tollway (I-294)

From North: Exit at Golf Road. Turn left at the end of the exit ramp. Turn right at the traffic light (Golf Road). Turn right at the first traffic light (College Drive).

From South: Take the Dempster West exit. Turn right on Rand Road (Route 12) to River Road (Route 45). Take River Road north to Golf Road. Turn right on Golf to the first traffic light (College Drive) and turn left.

Via the Kennedy Expressway

Take the Kennedy Expressway to the Tri-State Tollway (I-294 to Milwaukee). Exit at Dempster West and follow the directions (from South) above.

Oakton Community College
1600 East Golf Road
Des Plaines, IL 60016-1268

