

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

President
Tom Dailly
Schaumburg

Vice-President
Rodney Craig
Hanover Park

Secretary
Donna Johnson
Libertyville

Treasurer
John Lockerby
Skokie

Executive Director
Mark L. Fowler

Northwest Municipal Conference

Transportation Committee

Agenda

Thursday, October 26, 2023

8:30 a.m.

NWMC Offices and Video Conference

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81935066241>

Meeting ID: 819 3506 6241

Passcode: 712677

Dial by your location: (312) 626-6799

- I. **Call to Order/Introductions**
- II. **September 28, 2023 Meeting Minutes (Attachment A)**
Action Requested: Approve Minutes
- III. **Agency Reports**
 - a. **CMAP (Attachment B)**
 - b. **Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways**
 - c. **IDOT Highways**
 - d. **Illinois Tollway (Attachment C)**
 - e. **Metra (Attachment D)**
 - f. **Pace (Attachment E)**
 - g. **RTA (Attachment F)**
- IV. **RTA Access to Transit Presentation (Attachment G)**

RTA staff will present on the Access to Transit Program that helps communities improve the infrastructure around their transit stations and stops.

Action Requested: Informational
- V. **Integration of Accessibility in Council of Mayors Methodologies**

Staff will discuss the recent Public Right of Way Accessibility Guidelines (PROWAG) rulemaking and its impact on municipal right of way compliance. PROWAG compliance will be required as a policy and design standard within the next 4 years, and integration of PROWAG requirements into Council of Mayor methodologies will be necessary to apply for federal funding.

Action Requested: Discussion
- VI. **ADA Transition Plans, Council of Mayors Methodologies, and Municipal Vulnerabilities**

Staff will discuss the ADA Transition Plan compliance rate among member communities, upcoming CMAP requirements to include ADA Transition Plan/Compliance in Council of Mayor evaluation methodologies, and municipal vulnerabilities regarding an upcoming large-scale multi-municipality disability group lawsuit or DOJ Project Civic Access audits.

Action Requested: Discussion

- VII. Community Surveys on Weather Maintenance and All-Ages Access**
Staff will discuss a recent survey about how member communities plan for transportation facility maintenance during all weather conditions, and whether the facilities are designed for users of all ages.
Action Requested: Discussion
- VIII. Other Business**
- IX. Next Meeting**
The next meeting of the NWMC Transportation Committee is scheduled for Thursday, November 30 at 8:30 a.m. at the NWMC offices and via videoconference.
- X. Adjourn**

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**Northwest Municipal Conference
Transportation Committee
Thursday, September 28, 2023
Meeting Minutes
NWMC Offices and Video Conference**

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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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Treasurer
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Skokie

Executive Director
Mark L. Fowler

Members Present

Donna Johnson, Mayor, Libertyville, Chair
Marie Hansen, Director of Development Services, Barrington
Heather Lis, Village Engineer, Barrington
Kyle Johnson, Deputy Public Works Director/Village Engineer, Buffalo Grove
Bob Benton, Trustee, Deerfield
Eric Heiker, Civil Engineer, Des Plaines
Jeff Brady, Director of Community Development, Glenview
Bill McLeod, Mayor, Hoffman Estates
Sean Dorsey, Director of Public Works, Mount Prospect
Terri Gens, Trustee, Mount Prospect
Thomas Powers, Director of Public Works, Niles
Bob Israel, Trustee, Northbrook
Lou Arrigoni, Civil Engineer, Park Ridge
Lara Sanoica, Mayor, Rolling Meadows
Brian Bieschke, Trustee, Schaumburg

Others Present

David Lawry, Chastain & Associates LLC
Jane Grover, CMAP
Joe Cwynar, Engineering Enterprises
Jennifer Horn, Hoffman Estates
Jack Bielak, Northbrook
Steven Andrews, Pace Suburban Bus
Katelyn Dote, Metra
Zachary Braun, RTA
Michael Hall, Schaumburg
Mark Fowler, NWMC
Eric Czarnota, NWMC
Brian Larson, NWMC

I. Call to Order/Introductions

Mayor Johnson called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m.

II. May 25, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Trustee Israel moved approval of the May 25, 2023 minutes. Mayor McLeod seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

III. Agency Reports

a. CMAP

Report was attached to the agenda.

b. Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways

Cook County was not in attendance. Mr. Czarnota informed the committee that Cecilia Diaz is now leading the Department and Eva DeLaurentiis will be attending future meetings on the County's behalf.

c. IDOT Highways

IDOT was not in attendance. Mr. Czarnota informed the Committee that the Katie Hurd is will be attending future meetings on IDOT's behalf. Mayor Johnson asked for communication from IDOT regarding project delays and expressed a desire to have IDOT consistently attend future meetings.

d. Illinois Tollway

Report was attached to the agenda.

e. Metra

Ms. Dote discussed ridership and budget changes, and shared feedback on the Metra fare reform proposal. She indicated that Metra's ticket vending machine project is underway, with all downtown stations being covered by the end of year and expanding throughout 2024. Mayor Johnson asked whether the vending machine process would replace ticket agents. Ms. Dote responded the machines will supplement non-vendor hours. Mr. Israel asked whether availability of vending machines will result in a fare penalty for riders. Ms. Dote indicated Metra's goal is to eliminate rider penalties and will follow up on this. Mayor Johnson shared positive feedback about Metra's additional express services.

f. Pace

Mr. Andrews reported that the Pulse Dempster Line planned full-service launch on October 29th. He said that the Pace board approved the Rideshare Access Program to supplement ADA services and discussed Pace's Hire on the Spot events. Mr. Andrews also shared that the upcoming Pace budget will have no fare increases or service reductions, while looking to make fixed-routes free for ADA certified customers.

g. RTA

Mr. Braun discussed RTA's Transit is the Answer program including Chairman Dillard's letter to the editor and a new website. He said that a coalition group has been organized, with a Cross-Sector Safety Summit organized for early 2024. Mr. Braun also reviewed progress on implementing RTA's Transit Benefit Fare program, with map and communication toolkit, and that the RTA's Benefits Administrator is available to present to groups. Mr. Braun also shared that the Access to Transit program will have its Call for Projects on October 16th, with applications due December 15th, and RTA is available to give a more detailed presentation on the program.

IV. Village of Schaumburg Pavement Assessment and Management Program

Mr. Lawry presented their work on Pavement Assessment and Management for the *Village of Schaumburg*, which resulted in an award by the American Council of Engineering Companies of Illinois. Mr. Lawry discussed how addressing inaccurate and imprecise data collection methods allowed cost-savings to be achieved through preventative maintenance.

Attachment A

Mr. Fowler congratulated Mr. Lawry and Mr. Hall on the award, and asked about who owns the PACER van that does the pavement assessment. Mr. Lawry responded that the Van is a contract effort between the Village and Chastain that is sub-consulted. Mr. Hall emphasized that quality control should be mindful of how different consultant vans analyze the data. Mr. Israel voiced support for the work and asked why Schaumburg used a custom rather than IDOT street surface mix. Mr. Lawry responded that the IDOT mix isn't well suited for local streets due to insufficient traffic.

V. CMAP PART Draft Plan Discussion

Mr. Czarnota reviewed the recently released draft Plan of Action for Regional Transit (PART) created by the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP). He indicated the Final report is due to be presented to the CMAP Board/ MPO Policy Committee on October 11.

Ms. Grover said that the draft document is effectively the final report and CMAP is looking to send the adopted version to the state legislature by the end of the year. She said that she would have more to report at the October meeting.

VI. Other Business

There was no other business.

VII. Next Meeting

Mayor Johnson announced that the next meeting of the NWMC Transportation Committee is scheduled for Thursday, October 26 at 8:30 a.m. at the NWMC offices and via videoconference.

VIII. Adjourn

Mayor Sanoica moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:27 a.m. Trustee Israel seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

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CMAP News

The CMAP office is open daily and [staff](#) have established hybrid work schedules. All CMAP committee meetings are held in-person and a quorum of committee members must be physically present. CMAP continues to provide options for non-member attendees to participate in meetings virtually. Meeting materials, webinar links, minutes, and recordings can be found on [CMAP's Legistar page](#). For general questions, complete our [contact form](#). Subscribe to updates from CMAP on transportation, the economy, climate and more [here](#).

Job Opportunities

CMAP is hiring for several full-time positions: a [Senior Research Analyst](#) and an [Air Quality Analyst](#) in the Research, Analysis and Programming Department; a [Designer](#) in the Communications and Engagement Department; and a [Policy Principal](#) and [Senior Climate Policy Analyst](#) in the Regional Policy and Implementation Department. Visit CMAP's [Careers page](#) to discover more job opportunities.

Additionally, Kane County Division of Transportation is hiring for a [Regional Planning Liaison and Special Projects Coordinator](#).

Plan of Action for Regional Transit (PART)

As directed by [Public Act 102-1028](#), CMAP has developed a [Draft Plan of Action for Regional Transit](#) (PART) report, a set of legislative options to strengthen the regional transit system, which is facing a funding crisis that has the potential to decimate service, cripple our regional and local economies, and diminish quality of life. The PART report leverages findings and input from the RTA and its [Transit is the Answer](#) strategic plan, as well as CMAP's [Mobility Recovery](#) project. Recommendations for system improvements and funding approaches are available on the [PART web page](#).

As part of this process, CMAP was also required to assemble a [steering committee](#) comprised of business, civic, labor, and environmental stakeholders who helped guide development of the recommendations. The PART steering committee met five times. At their joint meeting on October 11, 2023, the CMAP Board and MPO Policy Committee authorized the submission of the PART report to the General Assembly and Governor's Office for consideration.

Program Status Updates

CRRSAA Program

On December 27, 2020, Title IV of the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSAA) resulted in the allocation of \$42,647,247 to be programmed and managed by CMAP. The [Regional CRRSAA Status Report](#) and [Accounting Summary](#) were updated in July 2023.

Staff Contact: [Kama Dobbs](#) (312-386-8710)

Surface Transportation Program

The [STP Project Selection Committee](#) last met on August 31, 2023. At the meeting, the committee approved the Recommended FFY 2024 – 2028 Shared Fund [Active](#) and [Contingency](#) programs. TIP changes incorporating the active program were approved by the MPO Policy Committee on October 11, 2023. The committee is scheduled to meet next on **November 2, 2023** at 9:30 am. [Meeting Materials](#) are posted on CMAP's Legistar page one week in advance of the meetings. Program status reports for the STP Shared Fund, based on quarterly updates submitted by project sponsors and an accounting of available, programmed, and obligated funds for the region are available on CMAP's [STP web page](#).

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Staff Contact: [Kama Dobbs](#) (312-386-8710)

Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ), Carbon Reduction (CRP) and Transportation Alternatives (TAP-L)

The most recent CMAQ Project Selection Committee (PSC) meeting was held on August 31, 2023, and the committee approved the Recommended FFY 2024-2028 [CMAQ](#), [CRP](#) and [TAP-L](#) programs. TIP changes incorporating the programs were approved by the MPO Policy Committee on October 11, 2023. The committee's next meeting is scheduled for **November 2, 2023**. [Meeting materials](#) are posted on CMAP's Legistar page one week in advance of the meetings. Information for submitting change requests for CMAQ or TAP-L funded projects can be found on CMAP's [CMAQ web page](#).

Staff Contact: [Doug Ferguson](#) (312-386-8824)

Safe Travel for All Roadmap (STAR)

CMAP's STAR program continues to work to improve regional travel safety with assistance, resources and policy development. CMAP's Speed management paper is in the final stages of review to share with partners and the public. Our *Safe Streets and Roads for All* Regional Safety Action Plan program will kick off before the end of the year, with six county-led safety action plans across the region. The procurement process is nearing completion, with staff and county representatives reviewing 11 proposals for the 6 county safety action plans, hoping to align the responses with county needs and budgets. The Regional Equity and Engagement consultant responses are also under review.

Technical assistance work also includes:

- Glendale Heights Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan (Recommendations phase)
- Round Lake Beach Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan (Recommendations phase)
- Alsip Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan (anticipated start late October)
- Richmond Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan (anticipated start November)
- West Cook Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan (anticipated start November)
- Greater Ashburn Safety Action Plan (anticipated start November)

Staff Contact: Lindsay Bayley, 312-386-8826

CMAP Products and Data

New CMAP Data Hub

CMAP is excited to announce the launch of the redesigned [Data Hub](#). The Data Hub provides vetted and trustworthy information about northeastern Illinois so local governments, community organizations, academic researchers, businesses, and more can learn and make informed decisions about their communities. The new Data Hub allows you to search or browse by categories and tags. You can find tables or shapefiles for transit routes and stops, greenhouse gas emissions, economically disconnected and disinvested areas, bikeway inventory system, and more!

2023 Community Data Snapshots

Updated CMAP [Community Data Snapshots](#) are now available. The annual snapshots provide data-driven profiles for every county, municipality, and Chicago Community Area (CCA) in our region. The snapshots include updated demographic, socioeconomic, and employment data from the American Community Survey (ACS) datasets, updated land use summaries using data from the [Land Use Inventory](#),

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and updated estimated vehicle miles traveled per household. Staff has also created a [toolkit](#) to help communities share this information.

Improving Accessibility in the Region

CMAP has launched a program to help communities in northeastern Illinois improve accessibility for their residents and visitors with disabilities. This [CMAP webpage](#) provides communities and partners with essential information about improving accessibility and complying with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Sign-up to receive the Accessible Communities newsletter by updating your subscriber preferences [here](#).

CMAP also conducts a series of free ADA trainings, which cover ADA and Title II requirements, completing a self-evaluation, the role of an ADA coordinator, and developing a transition plan. Training slides and recordings from spring sessions are available on the [CMAP website](#). Registration is now open for the [fall ADA trainings](#), which will cover the following topics:

- The ADA and Title II and Illinois Accessibility Code training - September 14, Glen Ellyn Police Department (ADA and Title II materials can be found [here](#), Illinois Accessibility Code materials can be found [here](#), and a recording will be available soon)
- ADA coordinator training - October 11, Brookfield Village Hall (materials and recording will be available soon)
- ADA self-evaluation and design standards - November 8, Arlington Heights Senior Center
- ADA transition plans - November 9, Arlington Heights Senior Center

IJA Booklet and Resources for Communities

CMAP has launched an [online resource](#) to provide communities and partners with the essential information they need to know about IJA and its benefits to the region. This includes funding estimates for existing transportation programs as well as new programs that can make our regional transportation system stronger and more resilient for the next generation of users.

CMAP has also been working with partners and stakeholders to prioritize and achieve consensus around sustainable solutions to our region's transportation challenges. The highest priority projects for the region are reflected in the [IJA booklet](#). These projects align with the [core principles](#) that guide IJA and our region — inclusive growth, resilience, and prioritized investment.

From Our Partners

IDOT 2022 Pavement and Structure Data

New pavement and structure condition data, collected in 2022, is available on the IDOT website [here](#). At the bottom of the page, you can download a zip file, which contains Excel and GIS layer packages containing the data.

2022 Statewide Crash Data

On June 20, 2023 IDOT released [Circular Letter 2023-18](#) regarding the 2022 statewide crash data and safety portal. The information can be accessed by logging into [IDOT's Safety Portal](#), which provides access to search and retrieve individual crash reports, view the location of a crash on a map, access the full 10-year retention period for historical and trend analysis purposes of sites and crashes, and generate standardized summary reports of crash data based on various input parameters. Additional crash data may be requested by contacting the Bureau of Data Collection at DOT.DTS.DataRequests@illinois.gov.

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Additionally, the 2021 Illinois [Crash Facts and Statistics Publications](#) are also available on the IDOT website.

Bicycle Facility Inventory System

IDOT has launched the [Bicycle Facility Inventory System](#). Users have access to add new facilities, update existing facilities, and mark facilities as decommissioned. A recording of the April 5th [webinar](#) which demonstrates how to use the system is available. For questions and additional information please email: DOT.BikePed@Illinois.gov.

Vulnerable Road User Safety Assessment

On March 15, 2023, IDOT released [Circular Letter 2023-10](#). With the passage of IIJA, IDOT is required to assist and support LPAs to perform a Vulnerable Road User (VRU) Safety Assessment as part of the state's Highway Safety Improvement Plan. The law establishes that the VRU Safety Assessment must be completed no later than **November 15, 2023**. You can help improve safety by identifying areas in your community that may be unsafe for bicyclists, pedestrians, or other vulnerable road in a new [online map](#).

Funding Opportunities

Illinois Special Bridge Program

On September 19, 2023 IDOT released [Circular Letter 2023-27](#) detailing the FY 2029 Illinois Special Bridge Program. Local and state major highway bridges meeting all the criteria will be eligible. Only construction and construction engineering costs will be eligible for funding. However, the total project cost for all engineering, utilities, land acquisition, and construction costs, including minimal approach work, must be at least \$1,000,000. Application must be submitted to the appropriate District Local Roads office by **October 31, 2023**. District offices are responsible for submitting applications to the Central Bureau of Local Roads and Streets by November 3, 2023. Questions should be directed to Melinda Kos, (217) 785-5178 or Melinda.Kos@illinois.gov.

Electric Vehicle Charger Reliability and Accessibility Accelerator

U.S. DOT has released the [NOFO](#) for the Electric Vehicle Charger Reliability and Accessibility Accelerator grant program. The program will provide up to \$100 million in Federal funding to repair and replace existing but non-operational, EV charging infrastructure. Eligible applicants include only State DOTs and Local Public Agencies; however, the chargers may be publicly or privately owned provided they are available to the public without restriction. Applications are by **November 13, 2023** through [Grants.gov](#). A webinar will be held on September 21, 2023 at 2:00pm CT. Register [here](#).

Bridge Investment Program, Large Bridge Project Grants

U.S. DOT has released the [NOFO](#) for the FY 2023-2026 Bridge Investment Program, Large Bridge Project Grants. Large Bridge Project Grants under the Bridge Investment Program are available for bridges with total eligible project costs over \$100 million. The minimum grant award is \$50 million and the maximum grant awards is 50 percent of the total eligible project costs. Visit the [Bridge Investment Program website](#) to find more information, including a Benefit-Cost Analysis Tool, a fact sheet, Q&A, and information about 2022 recipients.

The deadlines for applications to be submitted via [Grants.gov](#) are:

- **November 27, 2023**, for consideration of FYs 2023 and 2024 funds.
- **August 1, 2024**, for consideration of FY 2025 funds.
- **August 1, 2025**, for consideration of FY 2026 funds.

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FY 2023 Thriving Communities Program (TCO)

USDOT has released information on the [FY 2023 Thriving Communities Program](#). Applications are being accepted for two programs. The [Thriving Communities National Capacity Builder Program](#) is for applicants interested in providing support to communities. Additional information can be found in the [NOFO](#). The application period will close on **November 28, 2023**. The [Regional Pilot Program](#) is for applicants seeking to receive support. These applicants must submit a [Letter of Interest](#) by **November 15, 2023**. Webinar for both programs will be held in September. Registration information is available [here](#).

Public Input Opportunities

Pathways to Removing Obstacles to Housing (PRO Housing)

Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry, and Will counties are partnering with CMAP to apply for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development [Pathways to Removing Obstacles to Housing \(PRO Housing\)](#) grant program, which supports communities in developing affordable housing.

CMAP is hosting a [public hearing](#) on the application (in-person and virtual) on **Thursday, October 19 from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.** The draft application will be available online for public review and comment on October 15. For those wishing to attend the public hearing virtually, [registration](#) is required.

Training Opportunities

IDOT's T2 Fall Training Program

The Illinois Technology Transfer Center has an exciting lineup of course offerings this fall. The course [program](#) is now available online. Please register for all courses using [this form](#). IDOT also offers on demand, virtual courses through the [Learning Management System](#). For questions, contact Barry Kent at barry.kent@illinois.gov.

New FHWA Learning Management System

FHWA's National Highway Institute launched its new [Blackboard Learning Management System \(LMS\)](#) to provide a more interactive and user-friendly platform, offering easier access to course information, simplified course registration, transcript viewing, and online management of profile information and passwords. More than 30 self-directed training courses are currently available through NHI's LMS, and NHI will continue to migrate its Self-Directed Training courses between now and the Fall of 2023.

Integrating Transportation and Land Use

The [Integrating Transportation and Land Use](#) web-based training (WBT) course is designed to help practitioners plan multimodal transportation systems that supports community development goals and shape land use patterns that support transportation system performance goals. Course lessons include determining the interplay between transportation systems and land use development patterns, the processes and principles that influence integrated transportation and land use planning, and strategies for applying integrated land use and transportation principles to different types and scales of planning and decision-making processes. Target audience includes Mid-level State DOT employees, City and County engineers and planners, MPO staff, transit operators, Federal employees (FHWA, FTA, EPA), resource agency staff, consultants, elected officials, regulatory agency staff, local zoning officials, site designers, citizen activists, developers, media representatives and business leaders.

Every Day Counts (EDC) Virtual Summit

The EDC-7 summit was conducted virtually and included 2,000 attendees from State DOTs, local agencies, federal land management agencies, tribes and industry. The seven initiatives feature strategies

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to improve safety for all users, build sustainable infrastructure for the future, and grow an inclusive workforce. The presentations, fact sheets, videos, virtual booths, and pdfs of homegrown innovations developed by the National State Transportation Innovation Council (STIC) Network are available on-demand to all registered participants **through February 2024**. Register for the on-demand summit [here](#).

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Federally-Funded Project Implementation and Active Program Management Reminders – October and November 2023

10/19/2023

Change requests due for CMAQ, CRP, and TAP-L funded construction phases targeting the January 2024 state letting, or non-construction projects targeting federal authorization before December 1, 2023

10/20/2023

Fall 2023 TIP conformity amendments due

11/17/2023

Pre-final plans due for projects targeting the April 2024 state letting

11/27/2023

Final agreements due for projects targeting the January 2024 state letting

Final PS&E and Draft Agreements due for projects targeting the March 2024 state letting

###

This information is compiled from these official sources:

- IDOT Bureau of Local Roads and Streets Region One Letting Schedule (latest version available from IDOT District 1 BLRS staff)
- CMAP's TIP Due Dates and Master Transportation Schedule (latest version posted [here](#))
- [STP Active Program Management Policies](#)
- CMAP's call for projects [web page](#) (Refreshed prior to each call)
- CMAP's [CMAQ and TAP-L Program Management and Resources web page](#)

If there are any discrepancies in dates, the dates listed on the official sources above should be used. Consult with your planning liaison to resolve any questions or concerns.

Illinois Tollway Update

I-PASS Assist Program

More income-eligible drivers are receiving the cost-saving benefits of I-PASS after signing up for I-PASS Assist Accounts that also offer few up-front costs. We've put together a tool kit [I-PASS Assist Communications Toolkit - Illinois Tollway](#) if you'd like to promote this program to your residents.

Working through a partnership with the Illinois Department of Revenue and now the Illinois Department of Human services, the Tollway is able to verify the eligibility of households for I-PASS Assist using a secure web form that requires minimal information to determine if household incomes fall below the required threshold, which is based on 250 percent of Federal Poverty Guidelines or if households are currently participating in SNAP or TANF. I-PASS Assist offers eligible drivers all the benefits of I-PASS, including the standard 50 percent discount on tolls, as well as additional benefits, including waiving the transponder deposit fee and allowing drivers to open an account with as little as \$4 in prepaid tolls. In addition, participants may have fees accrued from unpaid tolls dismissed—and avoid future fees for missed tolls. Go to <https://www.illinoistollway.com/assist> to access the application.

The Official Illinois Tollway App

A quick, money-saving way for drivers to pay their tolls and avoid any fees or fines now is as close as their smartphone. It's the [Official Illinois Tollway App](#), which lets drivers use their phones or mobile devices to easily update or manage their I-PASS accounts, including adding or purchasing transponders, adding or changing payment methods and managing rental vehicle or new vehicles. Drivers who don't have I-PASS can use the app to create a Pay By Plate account that automatically pays their tolls. Because safety is priceless, drivers can use the app to call for roadside assistance with the press of a button for help with roadway emergencies so they can safely complete their trips. With the app, paying tolls and saving money is as easy as driving on the Illinois Tollway.

Notice of Violation for Unpaid Tolls

Starting in April, customers who have received multiple invoices and reminders for the same unpaid tolls will receive a notice of violation that, if ignored, will result in a \$20 fine assessed on each unpaid toll. These fines will be in addition to any previously assessed invoice fees.

Customers can go to <https://www.illinoistollway.com/ves> and search by license plate or invoice to identify unpaid tolls.

As the Tollway begins reinstating violation notices, customers with outstanding initial toll invoices issued between June 1, 2020, and September 30, 2022, will have a six-month hold placed on notices and will be eligible for a discount of up to 50 percent off fees on paid

invoices. In addition, income-eligible customers who qualify for I-PASS Assist and also establish an I-PASS account may have their fees dismissed.

Customers with outstanding initial toll invoices issued on or after October 1, 2022, will be issued a Notice of Violation, which may result in an additional \$20 fine per toll. However, customers will have an opportunity to dispute violations including via a hearing.

Since unpaid toll invoicing began in 2020 along with the agency's transition to cashless tolling, the Illinois Tollway estimates that more than 6 million invoices have gone unpaid, with a troubling trend of repeat non-compliance in a growing number of customers. This includes more than \$110 million in unpaid tolls over the past three years.

| 14 Days | Day 30 | Day 60 | Day 90 | Day 120 | Day 150 | Day 180 |
|--|--|---|---|--|---|---|
| Grace period to pay unpaid tolls with no fees | Invoice Issued | Second Invoice Issued | Third Invoice Issued | Notice of Violation (On hold since March 2020—resuming in 2023) | Final Order of Liability | Collections |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I-PASS Pay By Plate (Non-I-PASS rate) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unpaid tolls owed \$3 per toll fee for passenger vehicles (\$5-\$15 commercial) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Courtesy reminder—No additional fee | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unpaid tolls owed \$3 per-toll fee for passenger vehicles (\$5-\$15 commercial) Additional \$5 fee per-toll fee added | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Payment via Violation Enforcement Services Customer has opportunity for dispute or hearing All unpaid tolls and fees still applicable, with warning of additional \$20 violation fine per toll | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Customer owes all unpaid tolls, fees and a \$20 violation fine per toll | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Customer may be subject to registration hold Customer may be subject to litigation |

If you have any questions, please contact Kelsey Passi at kpassi@getipass.com

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Metra Media Relations 312-322-6776

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Metra proposes \$1.1B operating budget that includes major revision to fare structure

Plan also includes \$574.9M in capital spending

CHICAGO (Oct. 11, 2023) – Metra today unveiled a \$1.1 billion operating budget for 2024 that includes a major revision to its fare structure and a new mix of fare products. It also proposed a \$574.9 million capital budget that continues significant investment in railcars, bridges, and stations. The plans will be the subject of public feedback, including hearings, before the Metra Board of Directors votes in November.

The operating budget is 4.9% higher than the 2023 budget (excluding \$65 million in added costs that will be reimbursed by Northern Indiana Commuter Transportation District, or NICTD). The increase is largely driven by expected inflationary (general, medical premiums, fuel, insurance) and contractual (union agreements) increases.

The operating budget incorporates a revision to the Metra fare structure that was proposed this summer. Under the new structure, fares will be equal to or lower than prepandemic levels. Major changes would include:

- Replacing the existing 10-zone distance-based structure with a simplified four-zone structure;
- Discontinuing the promotional the \$6 and \$10 Day Passes and \$100 Super Saver Monthly Pass;
- Replacing the 10-Ride Ticket with a Day Pass 5-Pack available only in the Ventra app;
- Discontinuing “incremental fares” – a surcharge to travel beyond the zones indicated on a ticket.
- Full details can be found at metra.com/2024FarePlan.

The operating budget projects Metra will start the year at 47% of prepandemic (2019) ridership and finish the year at about 54 % of prepandemic levels. This results in a projection of \$243.9 million in system-generated revenues, mostly fares. To cover the rest of the expected operating costs, Metra would use \$560.4 million in regional sales taxes and \$223.7 million in federal COVID-relief funding.

Metra and the region’s other transit agencies – the RTA, CTA, and Pace – are projecting that COVID-relief funding will run out in 2026, creating a “fiscal cliff.” Additional funding sources must be found, or public transportation agencies must implement other budget-balancing

actions in 2026 to cover the anticipated deficit. (The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, at the request of the Legislature, has issued recommendations for addressing the deficit and meeting other challenges; see www.cmap.illinois.gov to learn more.)

The capital budget of \$574.9 million funds 97 projects throughout the system. About 63% of the budget will fund work in four categories:

- Bridge and retaining wall replacement and rehabilitation: \$143.8 million;
- Stations and parking Rehabilitations: \$77.5 million;
- Yard improvements, including facility acquisitions: \$71.1 million;
- Railcar rehabilitation \$67.6 million.

The capital budget is funded by:

- \$252.1 million in federal formula funding;
- \$117 million USDOT Mega grant for Union Pacific North Line bridges;
- \$73.8 million in Illinois PAYGO funds;
- \$130 million in RTA bonds;
- \$2 million in RTA Section 5310 funds.

Public hearings about the budget will be held throughout the region on Nov. 1 and 2 between 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. The schedule is on the following pages. In addition, a virtual public hearing will be held on Nov. 1 between 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. Instructions for attending the virtual hearing, and for submitting budget comments via mail, email, or voicemail, are also on the following pages.

###

About Metra

Metra is an essential resource that safely and reliably connects individuals to the things that matter most in their lives — their work, their homes and their families.

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

**FY2024 Metra Proposed Program and Budget
Public Hearing Schedule**

Nov. 1 & 2

4-6 p.m.

Wednesday, Nov. 1

Will County

Joliet City Hall
Council chambers
150 W. Jefferson St.

DuPage County

Clarendon Hills Village Hall
Village Board Room
One N. Prospect Ave.

City of Chicago

Metra
Board Room 13th floor
547 W. Jackson Blvd.

Lake County

Mundelein Village Hall
Village Board Room
300 Plaza Circle

Virtual Public Hearing

Webex.com or
via phone at 844-517-1442
meeting ID number: 2345 109
8718

Thursday, Nov. 2

South Suburban Cook County

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

Kane County

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

North Suburban Cook County

Hanover Park Police Department
Community Room
2011 Lake St.

McHenry County

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

Virtual Public Hearing

Any person may present views orally in person at a hearing or by participating at the virtual public hearing. Although it is not required, the public has the option to preregister if they wish to participate during the virtual public hearing. If you do not wish to preregister but would still like to participate in the virtual public hearing, please skip to Section II below for instructions.

During preregistration, Metra will ask you to enter your first name, last name, and email address. To efficiently facilitate the virtual public hearing, Metra will first call on those who preregistered, and then give all those who wish to provide comments an opportunity to participate.

Section I: Steps to preregister for the virtual public hearing:

- Step 1:** Log on to your computer and click to open a webpage browser (ex: Safari, Mozilla, Google Chrome, etc.).
- Step 2:** Once on the home page of your webpage browser, please enter the following website URL, *www.Webex.com*, in the internet browser search bar on top of the browser homepage.
- Step 3:** Once on the Webex homepage, please click on “Join” in the top right-hand of the homepage.
- Step 4:** You will be prompted to enter the meeting ID number: **2345 109 8718**
- Step 5:** You will be prompted to enter the meeting password: **2024budget**. Then press “register”.
- Step 6:** Complete the form by entering your first name, last name, and email address. Press “register now.” You will receive confirmation that the registration request was received.

Section II: For those not wishing to preregister:

- Step 1:** Log on to your computer and click to open a webpage browser (ex: Safari, Mozilla, Google Chrome, etc.).
- Step 2:** Once on the home page of your webpage browser, please enter the following website URL, *www.Webex.com*, in the internet browser search bar on top of the browser homepage.
- Step 3:** Once on the Webex homepage, please click on “Join” in the top right-hand of the homepage.
- Step 4:** You will be prompted to enter the meeting ID number: **2345 109 8718**
- Step 5:** You will be prompted to enter the meeting password: **2024budget**. Then press “ok”.
- Step 6:** Complete the form by entering your first name, last name, and email address. Press “join as guest.”

Follow these steps on Wednesday, Nov. 1, between 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. to present your comments. The virtual public hearing can also be attended by dialing toll free 844-517-1442 and entering access code: **2345 109 8718** or by submitting written material at any time, but not later than 24 hours after the conclusion of the hearings on Nov. 2, 2023.

Mail, Email and Voicemail Comments

Written comments via U.S. mail can be sent to the attention of Karen Hullinger, Assistant Secretary to the Commuter Rail Board, Room 1300, 547 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois, 60661. Comments will also be accepted via voicemail to 312-322-1006, or email to: *2024budgetcomments@metrarr.com*. The virtual public hearing will be recorded, and a copy will be retained by Metra in compliance with Illinois law.

Accommodations

Reasonable auxiliary aids or services necessary to afford an individual with a disability equal opportunity to participate will be provided. Persons requiring assistance are requested to notify Metra of their needs well in advance to provide sufficient time to make these accommodations. Requests for service should be made to Kim Borges at 312-322-6753.

PULSE

CATCH GREENS WITH PULSE!

Dempster Line **Sunday Sneak Preview** started August 13

Pace is excited to announce the Sunday sneak preview of the Pulse Dempster Line, connecting Evanston to O'Hare International Airport. **Fast, frequent, reliable service** began on Sunday, August 13 to your favorite destinations. Don't miss your chance to try Pulse before the full daily service launches this fall.

Pulse is "catching greens" this fall through advanced Transit Signal Priority technology that extends green lights and minimizes reds, keeping Pulse buses on schedule. Pace invites your feedback as we roll out the service.



Hop on Board!

Starting August 13, Pulse buses will run on Sundays from 6 a.m. to midnight with service every 15 minutes between 7 a.m. to 10 p.m., and every 20 minutes during early morning and late evening hours. This significant increase in Sunday service along Dempster Street offers a tremendous benefit for those working or traveling on weekends. Don't miss this opportunity to try Pulse before daily service begins. Look out for Pulse stations and temporary stops with Pulse signs while construction continues.

Full daily service for Pulse Dempster Line will begin Fall 2023.

Visit PaceBus.com/Pulse for updates, schedules, and exciting developments.

On August 9, Pace, Senator Laura Murphy, and City of Des Plaines officials celebrated the opening of the new Pulse Dempster Line station in downtown Des Plaines. Pace is thrilled to partner with communities to provide innovative, accessible bus services.



FAST TRACK TO BETTER TRANSIT: Pulse Halsted Line Making Strides Forward

What's the scoop on the Pulse Halsted Line? Pace has been working hard to improve transit on South Halsted Street in the south suburban communities of Harvey, Phoenix, Calumet Park, Riverdale, and Dixmoor, as well as the City of Chicago neighborhoods of West Pullman, Morgan Park, Roseland, Washington Heights, and Auburn Gresham.

Pulse Halsted Line Wins \$20 Million Federal Grant



The Pulse Halsted Line was awarded \$20 million from the highly competitive federal Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant program in June! This incredible investment will keep the project **MOVING FORWARD** with final design and construction. Pace continues to seek additional funding to cover the remaining costs to fully implement the Halsted Line.

In December 2022, the Pulse Halsted Line reached a milestone as it obtained National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) approval. The NEPA process ensures that environmental impacts are carefully considered and addressed, guaranteeing that the project aligns with NEPA standards while delivering improved transportation options to these communities.

So, what can you expect from the Pulse Halsted Line project? New buses and stations, making them easy and safe to reach. To keep the buses on schedule, the project team has proposed transit priority treatments to the roads, including a dedicated bus lane through one of the most congested parts of the corridor, and "queue jumps" that allow buses to skip traffic backups at several congested intersections. The project will also include Transit Signal Priority, ensuring reliable service. Riders will enjoy seamless connections to other transit services, making commuting a breeze.

The project will move into the Final Design phase with construction anticipated to begin in 2025. Pace anticipates launching service in 2027. Stay tuned for more updates on the South Halsted Line by visiting PaceBus.com/Pulse.



Advancing Transit Connectivity and Progress on the 95th Street Line



PULSE SERVICE

Coming to DuPage County



Pace has taken the first step toward making the Pulse Cermak Line a reality with the start of the Project Definition Study. The project aims to bring what customers have come to expect from Pulse to a corridor encompassing portions of Cermak Road, 22nd Street, and Butterfield Road and serving 10 communities within Cook and DuPage counties.

The project kicked off earlier this year with initial data collection. The study team is currently analyzing travel patterns and development conditions within the corridor to define the project limits and draft station locations. Stakeholder involvement will begin this fall with the first meeting of the Corridor Advisory Group, comprised of elected officials and other representatives from the impacted communities for feedback on initial service concepts.



THE PULSE 95TH STREET LINE IS MAKING PROGRESS.

This route is set to connect the CTA Red Line 95th/Dan Ryan Station in Chicago with Moraine Valley Community College in Palos Hills. With key destinations and connections to other Pace and CTA bus routes, as well as Metra's Rock Island and Southwest Service Lines, passengers on the 95th Street Line will enjoy a wide range of local and regional travel options.

Pace has successfully completed the conceptual design phase and the project is awaiting approval of its environmental review by the Federal Transit Administration. Once approved, the project will move into final design followed by construction.

Both remaining phases are fully funded through a Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) grant awarded by the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP).

Once complete, the Pulse 95th Street Line will offer commuters fast, reliable, and frequent service. Pulse buses will have the distinct Pulse purple branding. Pulse stations will feature conveniences such as near-level boarding, heated shelters and real-time bus arrival information.

Pace plans to open the Pulse 95th Street Line in 2027.

PACE SAVES THE DAY During Kennedy Expressway Construction

Pace provides suburban commuters an alternative to sitting in congestion on the Kennedy Expressway caused by a three-year construction project. As construction continues, riders are taking advantage of the Pulse Milwaukee Line and other services to connect to the CTA Blue Line and Metra Union Pacific Northwest Line at Jefferson Park, getting to their destination quickly and comfortably. In addition to Pulse Milwaukee, which serves Milwaukee Avenue between Jefferson Park and Niles, Pace also offers express bus routes to CTA stations for connections into Chicago by utilizing the I-90 Flex Lane or the shoulder lane of I-94.

Commuters are encouraged to explore the Pulse Milwaukee Line and I-90 and I-94 express routes. Find how to avoid Kennedy Expressway construction traffic by planning your trip on the Transit app, using Pace's online Trip Planner, or contacting RTA's Travel Information Center to improve your commute while construction continues. Express routes include:

PULSE MILWAUKEE LINE:

Niles to Jefferson Park Transit Center

ROUTE 600:

Schaumburg to CTA Rosemont Transit Center

ROUTE 603:

Elgin to CTA Rosemont Transit Center

ROUTE 605:

I-90/Randall Rd to CTA Rosemont Transit Center

ROUTE 606:

Woodfield Mall to CTA Rosemont Transit Center

ROUTE 626:

Buffalo Grove to Dempster-Skokie
CTA Yellow Line Station

Attachment E

Pace Partners WITH LOCAL COMMUNITIES

To ensure the Pulse Halsted Line aligns with community goals, Pace coordinated with the Far South Community Development Corporation in Chicago. Together, we selected a location for a Pulse station that would provide the best visibility and pedestrian access to the new station from the planned 12-acre Morgan Park Commons mixed-use redevelopment.

"Exciting transformations are in the works to bring life to a crucial intersection. A new Pulse station will seamlessly link residents and visitors to the area, and help us create a thriving hub in the community."

— Far South Community Development Corporation President, Abraham Lacy

Pace is coordinating with the City of Chicago Department of Planning and Development and CTA on the 95th Street Corridor Study. Pace's planned improvements along 95th Street as part of both the Pulse Halsted and 95th Street projects will play a big part in leveraging goals of the study such as multimodal connectivity -- to improve equitable transit options in the area.

Stay in the Know!

Be the first to know about exciting developments! Visit **PaceBus.com/Pulse** and sign up to receive updates on upcoming meetings and all the latest news. Follow us on social media to stay connected and track Pulse progress.

HAVE YOU TRIED THE APP?

Pace's Transit App makes trip planning easy with real-time bus tracking and a trip planner for transit connections.



Download the app at
<https://transitapp.com>.





Public Hearings on 2024 Budget



Pace is holding virtual and in-person public hearings on its proposed 2024 Operating Budget, 2025-2026 Two-Year Financial Plan, and 2024-2028 Five-Year Capital Program in accordance with the public hearings schedule on the back.

Pace presents a balanced and stable budget for 2024

- ✓ **A FARE REDUCTION is proposed on the Pace fixed-route system for ADA-certified customers.**

Presently, the RTA ADA Paratransit Permit ID Card enables an ADA-certified customer to ride on the Pace fixed-route system at the reduced fare rate. Beginning in 2024, Pace is proposing to offer a free fare on the Pace fixed-route system to ADA-certified customers with a valid RTA ADA Paratransit Permit ID Card.

- ✓ **Pace is proposing NO FARE INCREASE or service reductions for Suburban Service or Regional ADA Paratransit.**

Any person wishing to comment on the proposed budget may do so by attending an in-person or virtual public hearing, at Pace's website: <https://www.PaceBus.com/public-hearing-feedback>, by email to: public.hearings@PaceBus.com, by telephone to 847-354-7943, or by mail to: Pace, Community Relations Department, 550 W. Algonquin Rd., Arlington Heights, IL 60005-4412. All comments must be received by 5:00 pm on Friday, October 27, 2023.

To provide live comments during a virtual public hearing, pre-register for a hearing at <https://www.PaceBus.com/Budget-Hearings-2024>. To view a virtual hearing without making live comments, you can access the hearing (in view-only mode) at [PaceBus.com/streaming](https://www.PaceBus.com/streaming) at the applicable time. Closed captioning of the hearing will be available.

For information about the public hearings and service changes, call (847) 364-7223 or visit [PaceBus.com](https://www.PaceBus.com).

Para Información en Español sobre las audiencias públicas y cambios de servicio llame al (847) 228-3575 o visite [PaceBus.com](https://www.PaceBus.com).

**pace**

Public Hearings Schedule

| | | |
|------------------------|---|---|
| Lake County | Thursday October 19, 2023 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm | Waukegan Public Library Bradbury Room, Lower Level 128 N. County St. Waukegan, IL 60085 |
| Will County | Friday October 20, 2023 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm | Joliet Public Library McGuire Meeting Room 150 N. Ottawa St. Joliet, IL 60432 |
| Virtual Hearing | Monday October 23, 2023 12:00 pm | Register at: PaceBus.com/Budget-Hearings-2024 |
| Kane County | Monday October 23, 2023 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm | Kane County Government Ctr. Auditorium 719 S. Batavia Ave. Geneva, IL 60134 |
| Cook County | Tuesday October 24, 2023 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm | Elmer Wolf Community Ctr. 2607 North Thatcher Ave. River Grove, IL 60171 |
| Virtual Hearing | Wednesday October 25, 2023 12:00 pm | Register at: PaceBus.com/Budget-Hearings-2024 |
| DuPage County | Wednesday October 25, 2023 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm | DuPage County Admin. Bldg. RM. 3500B 421 N. County Farm Rd. Wheaton, IL 60187 |
| McHenry County | Thursday October 26, 2023 3:30 pm - 5:30 pm | Crystal Lake City Hall Council Chambers 100 W. Woodstock St. Crystal Lake, IL 60014 |

Individuals with disabilities who plan to attend a public hearing in person or wish to view a public hearing virtually and who require accommodations other than transportation, and individuals who require translation into a language other than English to allow them to view and/or participate are requested to contact Pace at (847) 364-7223 option 3, no less than five (5) business days prior to the scheduled hearing.

The 2024 budget information will be available after October 18, 2023 on Pace's website at <https://www.PaceBus.com/budgets>, at most public libraries, township, city, and village offices in the six county Pace region, and at Pace, 550 West Algonquin Road, Arlington Heights, IL 60005.

Po informacje w sprawie debat publicznych i zmianach w serwisie, proszę zadzwonić pod numer (847) 354-7967 albo odwiedzić stronę internetową, PaceBus.com

如果你需要了解有关公众听证会和巴士服务变化的信息，请拨打电话 (847) 354-7949 或者访问 Pace 巴士的网站 PaceBus.com



Memorandum

175 W Jackson Blvd
Suite 1550
Chicago, IL 60604
312 913 3200
rtachicago.org

October 2023 Update

Transit ridership reaches record post-pandemic highs

Ridership across Chicago's transit system continues to increase to a post-COVID peak, according to recent data from CTA, Metra, and Pace. The last week of August and the first week of September were particularly strong for CTA ridership, which saw over one million rides recorded on the four separate days. August 2023 was Metra's highest ridership month since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, providing 3.1 million passenger trips, a 13 percent increase from July and a 29 percent increase from the same time last year. Pace recovery has been steady, providing 1.2 million rides in the month of July 2023, and new innovations — like the Pulse Dempster Line — are bringing back more riders. For the latest updates on ridership numbers and more, visit the RTA's State of Transit Dashboard.

RTA launches new dashboards to track progress

The vision of *Transit is the Answer*, the regional transit system's strategic plan, is "safe, reliable, accessible public transportation that connects people to opportunity, advances equity, and combats climate change." Realizing this vision requires ensuring the system is in a state of good repair; financially stable; and safe, accessible, reliable, and useful for riders. To help track progress on these outcomes — and to understand how outcomes may vary across communities, by race, by income, or by other important factors — RTA has launched new Performance Measures Dashboards. The measures capture user experience, progress made in investing-in and maintaining transit infrastructure, and how well RTA and the Service Boards are maximizing use of our shared resources.

RTA strengthening rider voice in transit decision making

At their October 19 meeting, the RTA Board approved changes to the RTA Citizens Advisory Board (RTACAB) Bylaws. *Transit is the Answer* calls for the RTA to expand the role of the RTACAB to strengthen the rider voice and help track progress of the implementation of the goals of the plan. Changes to the current structure and membership are intended to help fill vacant positions, add more diverse transit riders to the membership pool, and reenergize the membership. More information on the RTACAB and its role can be found on the RTA's website.



Memorandum

175 W Jackson Blvd
Suite 1550
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312 913 3200
rtachicago.org

2024 regional transit budget advances

The [RTA's regional transit budget development](#) cycle continues as the Service Boards have submitted their proposed operating budgets and capital programs to the RTA and will begin holding public hearings throughout the region. The Service Boards will present their adopted budget submissions to the RTA Board at the November 16 meeting, after which the RTA will present a proposed regional operating budget, 2-year financial plan, and 5-year capital program at county board meetings throughout the next two months. The final proposed regional budget will be presented for consideration by the RTA Board at their December 14 meeting.

Now Open: Access to Transit Program Call for Projects

RTA's [Access to Transit Program](#) helps communities improve the infrastructure around their transit stations and stops. Using federal CMAQ and RTA funding, municipalities may apply for small-scale projects, up to \$1 million, that improve access to transit services. The 2023 Call for Projects opened on October 16 and applications are due no later than December 15. More details are available on the [RTA website](#), and a [toolkit](#) is available to promote to potential municipal applicants.

Legislation expands Transit Benefit Program

[PA 103-291](#) expands the pre-tax [Transportation Benefit Program](#) to certain workplaces across the RTA service region. The law requires all employers with 50 or more full-time employees and within one mile of fixed-route transit service to offer the program by January 1, 2024. The governor signed the legislation into law on July 28. RTA staff have published a [searchable map](#) of the coverage area, as required by the law, and developed a [communication toolkit](#) for state lawmakers, local officials, and business groups as part of outreach to promote the program.

Follow new RTA social media accounts

RTA is officially on [TikTok](#) and [Threads](#), and can be followed at [@RTA_Chicago](#) on both platforms. These video-based platforms will enhance RTA's ability to reach riders and the public to promote the value transit has to the region, as well as make the case for sustainable funding to lawmakers who engage with their constituents on those platforms.

Access to Transit Program 2023 Call for Projects

October 16 – December 15, 2023



2023 Access to Transit Call for Projects

- Call open October 16 – December 15, 2023
- Seeking applications up to \$1 million for small-scale capital improvement projects that improve access to transit stops and stations for people walking and using a bicycle.
- All municipalities in the six-county RTA region are welcome to apply.



Details

- Phase I Engineering and Construction
- Project must implement recommendations from a community-led study or plan.
- Priority to high-need municipalities
- Phase I engineering must already be completed or completed by fall 2024.



Phase I Engineering Only

- Phase I engineering only funding available
- Maximum budget request is \$55,000
- For municipalities of high need only.
- Must re-apply later for Phase I engineering and construction.



Before



After

Dates and More Information

- Call open October 16 – December 15, 2023
- Awards in late February 2024
- Contingent upon the RTA's successful application for CMAQ funding in 2025.
- For more information and to apply:
www.rtachicago.org/a2t
- Questions:
 - Michael Horsting – michael.horsting@rtachicago.org
 - Robert Morris – robert.morris@rtachicago.org

