

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
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- President*
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- Vice-President*
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- Secretary*
Rodney Craig
Hanover Park

- Treasurer*
Anne Marie Gaura
Lincolnwood

- Executive Director*
Mark L. Fowler

**Northwest Municipal Conference
Transportation Committee
Agenda
Thursday, February 23, 2023
8:30 a.m.**

NWMC Offices and Video Conference

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87081661590?pwd=MUU2QkZBajdkbWxaUU0wVkl1SmgyUT09>

Meeting ID: 870 8166 1590

Passcode: TC022323

Dial by your location: (312) 626-6799

- I. Call to Order/Introductions**

- II. January 26, 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 (Available upon request)**
 - d. Illinois Tollway**
 - e. Metra (Attachment C)**
 - f. Pace (Attachment D)**
 - g. RTA (Attachment E)**

- I. CMAP Greenhouse Gas Inventory**
Jared Patton, Senior Planner with the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP), will present information on their work to support communities in climate action planning and what data exists to assist communities in these efforts, including their recently updated [Greenhouse Gas Inventory](#).
Action Requested: Informational/Discussion

- IV. Meeting with IDOT Central Office Staff**
Staff is working with IDOT to coordinate a meeting between NWMC members, other council of government staff, regional stakeholders, and Central Office staff to discuss the agreements and permitting process and how to work to improve it. The meeting is scheduled for March 14 at 1:00 p.m. at Oakton College in Des Plaines.
Action Requested: RSVP by March 2

- V. Other Business**

- VI. Next Meeting**
The next meeting of the NWMC Transportation Committee is scheduled for Thursday, March 23 at 8:30 a.m. at the NWMC offices and via videoconference.

- VII. Adjourn**

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**NWMC Transportation Committee
NWMC Offices and via Zoom Video Conference
Thursday, January 26, 2023
Meeting Minutes**

MEMBERS

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Deer Park
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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
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Wilmette
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Secretary
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Hanover Park

Treasurer
Anne Marie Gaura
Lincolnwood

Executive Director
Mark L. Fowler

Members Present

Donna Johnson, Mayor, Libertyville, Co-Chair
Rod Craig, Mayor, Hanover Park, Co-Chair
Marie Hansen, Director of Development Services, Barrington
Heather Lis, Village Engineer, Barrington
Darren Monico, Village Engineer, Buffalo Grove
Bob Benton, Trustee, Deerfield
Eric Heiker, Engineer, Des Plaines
Maggie Jablonski, Deputy Village Manager, Elk Grove Village
Dudley Onderdonk, Trustee, Glencoe
Jeff Brady, Director of Community Development, Glenview
Bill McLeod, Mayor, Hoffman Estates
Bob Israel, Trustee, Northbrook
Lou Arrigoni, Civil Engineer, Park Ridge
Peter Falcone, assistant Administrator, Prospect Heights
Samantha Maximilian, Senior Engineer, Skokie

Others Present

Jack Bielak, Village Engineer, Northbrook
Linda Mastandrea, Local Planning, CMAP
Howard Killian, Engineering Resource Associates
Tavis Farmer, IDOT Highways
Steven Andrews, Community Relations, Pace
Rick Mack, Community Affairs Administrator, Metra
Katelyn Dote, Legislative Affairs Liaison, Metra
Kyle Whitehead, Intergovernmental Affairs, RTA
Cecilia Diaz, Transportation Planner, CCDOTH
Michael Lysicatos, Transportation Program Manager, Schaumburg
Dan Jedrzejak, Engineer, Chastain & Associates
Joe Cwynar, Engineer, Engineering Enterprises, Inc.
Larry Bury, Deputy Director, NWMC
Eric Czarnota, Program Associate for Transportation, NWMC
Mark Fowler, Executive Director, NWMC
Kendra Johnson, Program Manager for Transportation, NWMC

I. Call to Order/Introductions

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

II. Approval of December 1, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Mayor Craig moved approval of the December 1, 2022 meeting minutes. Mayor McLeod seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

III. **Agency Reports**

A. **CMAP** – Written report provided.

B. **Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways** – Ms. Diaz announced that Invest in Cook applications are now open until March 17. She also mentioned that the 2023 Cook County annual appropriations bill is now available on the Cook County website.

C. **IDOT Highways** – Mr. Farmer reported that his report is similar to the last meeting but was available for any questions.

Mr. Israel asked if there was any update on how IDOT was managing the backlog of agreements. Mr. Farmer responded that IDOT has focused on increasing staffing numbers to make the review process timelier.

D. **Illinois Tollway** – Written report provided.

E. **Metra** – Mr. Mack reported that Metra had received a record-breaking amount of competitive federal grants. He also announced the new train tracker website that lets passengers live-track trains and helps make travel plans. Metra will also be starting a new marketing campaign that will combat the notion that Metra is unsafe and try to encourage more ridership.

Mr. Israel asked if Metra would consider a more regular schedule that would allow for more trains to run during the midday. Mr. Mack responded that Metra has been monitoring this and will be considering this as they develop schedules in the future.

F. **Pace** – Mr. Andrews informed the committee that Pace had a 3% increase in December ridership from last year and is seeing gains in that area. He mentioned that a top priority this year is recruitment and they recently held a successful first hire-on-the-spot event of the year.

Mr. Israel asked if Metra would be looking into a restructuring of the fare box recovery. Mr. Andrews responded that they would be but also mentioned the RTA strategic plan that also highlights other strategies that could be implemented.

G. **RTA** – Mr. Whitehead notified the committee that the RTA is working on finalizing its strategic plan that will be adopted at its next board meeting on February 16. He also mentioned that community planning projects are awaiting to be awarded and are currently open for public comment.

Mayor Craig brought up that an NWMC member would be stepping down from the RTA board and was wondering about the process of replacing her. Staff stated that they are implemented by Cook County commissioners but that NWMC has weighed in on appointments in the past and would let the committee know when they had more information.

IV. **American With Disabilities (ADA) Resources**

Linda Mastandrea, Director of Regional ADA Planning and Local Safety with the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) presented information on their work to support communities in complying with Title II requirements and other resources available to guide ADA improvements.

Mayor Craig asked if it would be possible to host an ADA training at the CMAP offices since a lot of the currently scheduled ones are focused heavily in the southern suburbs. Staff mentioned that a similar suggestion had been brought up at the Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee and that CMAP is considering it.

V. Changes to CMAP Active Program Management Policies

Staff provided a brief summary of proposed changes to CMAP's Active Program Management policies which will be presented to the STP Project Selection Committee at their February meeting.

A question was asked in the chat if STP-L projects would also be subject to the new schedule change. Staff responded that they would and the new Call for Projects would begin in October if approved by the committee.

VI. Other Business

No other business.

VII. Next Meeting

Mayor Johnson announced the next meeting of the NWMC Transportation Committee is scheduled for Thursday, February 23 at 8:30 a.m. at the NWMC offices and via video conference.

VIII. Adjourn

Trustee Israel moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 a.m. Mayor Craig 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. [CMAP committee meetings](#) may be held in-person or virtually, depending on the unique situations and requirements of the Open Meetings Act (OMA) that apply to each committee. 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 & Internship Opportunities

Through March 1, 2023 CMAP is accepting applications for interns in nearly all departments, including field data collection interns. CMAP is also hiring for several full-time positions: a [Senior/Research Analyst](#) in the Research, Analysis and Programming Department; a [Policy Analyst](#) in the Regional Policy and Implementation Department; a [Planner](#) in the Planning Department; a [Senior Communications Specialist](#) in the Communications and Engagement Department; and a [Director of Human Resources, Manager – Finance and Accounting, Senior HR Generalist, Finance & Accounting Team Lead, Senior Procurement Analyst, and Procurement Analyst](#) in the Finance and Administration Department. Visit CMAP's [Careers page](#) to discover more job and internship opportunities.

Safe Travel for All Roadmap (STAR) Program

Northeastern Illinois was awarded a \$5 million grant to improve traffic safety across the region. The joint application submitted by CMAP, IDOT, and the region's counties will fund a comprehensive, regional program called [Safe Travel for All Roadmap](#) (STAR), which will provide a framework for safety research and programs to make northeastern Illinois safer for all travelers.

Free Training on ADA and Accessibility

CMAP is hosting free ADA trainings. These half-day, interactive workshops will be located throughout the region. The trainings are intended for municipal staff, ADA coordinators, community leaders, and anyone interested in learning how to make their communities more accessible. Module topics, location information, and registration information can be found [here](#).

- November 15, 2022: ADA training pilot, recording available [here](#)
- January 18, 2023: ADA and Title II, materials available [here](#)
- March 1, 2023: ADA self-evaluation and design standards, [sign up](#) to receive a notification when registration opens
- April 18, 2023: ADA coordinator training
- April 19, 2023: ADA transition plans

Community Alliance for Regional Equity (CARE) Program

In December 2022, CMAP launched the [CARE Program](#). The first-year cohort of this pilot program consists of 12 community-based organizations. Over the coming year, participants will work on four focus areas: accelerate transportation and safety issues, contribute to regional decision-making processes, collaborate in the development of engagement and planning tools, and reflect and shape the alliance's processes and outcomes.

Plan of Action for Regional Transit (PART)

The development of a plan for a stronger and more financially secure transit system for Chicagoland is now underway. The outcome will be a set of state legislative recommendations that ensure the long-term financial viability of a comprehensive and coordinated regional public transportation system, as required by state law enacted last year.

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To identify actionable solutions, CMAP is engaging a diverse group of stakeholders from the business, community, environmental, labor, and civic sectors, along with the public, in this process. The PART steering committee held its first meeting on January 18 and plans to convene four other times throughout 2023. The PART report also will leverage findings and input from the RTA and its [Transit is the Answer](#) strategic plan, as well as CMAP's [Mobility Recovery](#) project.

Program Status Updates

Call for CMAQ/CRP, TAP-L, and STP Shared Fund projects

The call for projects opened on January 17, 2023. Applications are due by **March 10, 2023**. All Call for Projects information, including training webinars and application materials, are posted on the CMAP website at cmap.is/2023callforprojects.

CRRSAA Program

On December 27, 2020, Title IV of the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSAA) was enacted. This Act resulted in the allocation of \$42,647,247 to be programmed and managed by CMAP. In the fall of 2021, the STP Project Selection Committee and local councils of mayors selected [33 individual project phases](#) for CRRSAA funding. The [Regional CRRSAA Status Report](#) and [Regional CRRSAA Accounting Summary](#) were updated in February 2023.

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

Surface Transportation Program

The [STP Project Selection Committee](#) will meet on February 9, 2023. [Proposed revisions](#) to the region's Active Program Management (APM) policies will be considered. [Meeting Materials](#) are posted on CMAP's Legistar page. 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](#).

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

Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) and Transportation Alternatives (TAP-L)

The latest CMAQ Project Selection Committee (PSC) meeting was held on December 1, 2022, and the committee's next meeting is scheduled for **February 9, 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 and Complete Streets Program

CMAP's Safe and Complete Streets program (STAR – Safe Travel for All Roadmap) aims to improve the region's traffic safety environment. It will continue and build on the work of the Safety Action Agenda and align the effort with new federal funding opportunities including: the development of policy related to speed management, bicycle and pedestrian safety; the creation of safety action plans for qualifying local partners, the dedication of resources to planning and implementing complete streets projects and the creation of data resources for partners to better address safety.

Staff Contact: [Victoria Barrett](#) (312-386-8641)

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CMAP Products and Data

Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory and Local Summaries

An updated [greenhouse gas emissions inventory](#) using 2019 data is available. This shows that between 2010 and 2019, overall greenhouse gas emissions in northeastern Illinois decreased by 9 percent. While this is progress, the region has a shared goal of reducing emissions by 5 percent annually through 2050, and it fell 36 percent short of the goal.

For the first time, CMAP also produced [individualized data summaries](#) by county, community, and Chicago neighborhood that provide a snapshot of emissions from the building, transportation, and waste sectors. Local governments, sustainability committees, and others are encouraged to use this data to develop local climate action plans.

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, and advance notice of upcoming CMAP trainings and other information. Sign-up to receive the new Accessible Communities newsletter by updating your subscriber preferences [here](#). We look forward to keeping you informed and invite you to connect, stay in touch, and join us to create a more inclusive region. Email us at accessibility@cmmap.illinois.gov.

IIJA 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 IIJA 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 [IIJA booklet](#). These projects align with the [core principles](#) that guide IIJA and our region — inclusive growth, resilience, and prioritized investment.

From Our Partners

Build America, Buy America (BABA) Act

As part of the IIJA, the Build America, Buy America (BABA) Act was expanded beyond what was previously required only for steel/iron products, to now include a list of construction materials also required to be manufactured in the United States. These requirements will commence with the January 20, 2023 letting. To assist in facilitating these new requirements, IDOT has created a "List of Construction Materials Subject to Build America, Buy America (BABA)," which is available on the [IDOT's website](#). This list will be updated as more information becomes available from the USDOT/FHWA.

New Traffic Laws

The [list of new Illinois laws](#) that went into effect January 1 includes several driving-related changes:

- New penalty for reckless driving near schools: The [law](#) adds community service as a penalty for failing to stop for a school bus or speeding more than 20 miles per hour in a school zone.

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- Enhanced teen driving training: [Course content](#) for drivers younger than 18 in Illinois will now be based on the national Novice Teen Driver Education and Training Administrative Standards.

Funding Opportunities

Invest in Cook

The Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways (DoTH) has announced a 7th round of Invest in Cook, an \$8.5 million grant program to help local governments and agency partners further their transportation projects by covering some of the cost of planning and feasibility studies, engineering, right-of-way acquisition and construction associated with transportation improvements. Applications are due by **5 p.m. on Friday, March 17, 2023**. Additional information can be found [here](#).

FFY 2024 Highway Safety Program Notice of Funding Opportunities

IDOT's Bureau of Safety Programs and Engineering is seeking grant applications for **six** Highway Safety Programs. These are: the Sustained Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP), Non-Enforcement Program, Pedestrian and Bicycle Program, Racial Profiling Program, Traffic Records Program, and Motorcycle Awareness Program. Applications for all programs are due **February 17, 2023**, via AmpliFund. NOFOs and application materials can be found on the IDOT website [here](#).

FY 2023 Rebuild American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Program

On December 20, 2022 IDOT issued [Circular Letter 2022-31](#) announcing that the USDOT is soliciting project applications for the FY 2023 RAISE discretionary grant program. Fiscal Year 2023 RAISE grants are for investments in surface transportation infrastructure projects and will be awarded on a competitive basis to projects that will have a significant local or regional impact and improve: safety, economic strength and global competitiveness, equity, quality of life, mobility and community connectivity, and climate and sustainability. All projects including planning projects have a minimum award of \$5 million for urban projects and \$1 million for rural projects. Grants may not be greater than \$25 million. Applications are due by **February 28, 2023**. Additional information is posted on the [USDOT website](#).

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Federally-Funded Project Implementation and Active Program Management Reminders – February and March 2023

2/14/2023

TIP changes due for projects targeting the **April** state letting.

2/24/2023

Pre-final plans due to District One for projects targeting the **August** state letting.

Soft deadline to “Save As Final” all locally sponsored STP Shared Fund, CMAQ/CRP, and TAP-L applications in progress for planning liaison review.

3/6/2023

Final Agreements and ROW documents due for projects targeting the **April** state letting.

Final PS&E and Draft Agreements due for projects targeting the **June** state letting.

3/10/2023

All applications for the STP Shared Fund, CMAQ/CRP, and TAP-L projects must be submitted in eTIP by 5:00 p.m. to receive funding consideration.

3/15/2023

All ROW must be certified by the Bureau of Land Acquisition for projects targeting the **April** state letting.

3/31/2023

Quarterly status updates for all projects funded with CMAQ, CRRSAA (local or shared), STP (local or shared), and/or TAP-L funds are due to transportation@cmap.illinois.gov or your council of mayors (for STP-Local only).

Other recommended actions in February

Project sponsors should be preparing and submitting applications for the STP Shared Fund, CMAQ/CRP, and TAP-L call for projects.

###

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.



Metra Media Relations 312-322-6776

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Metra Board approves new strategic plan

Plan seeks to address challenges of a post-COVID world

CHICAGO (Feb. 15, 2022) – The Metra Board of Directors today approved a new 2023-2027 strategic plan that focuses on addressing the operational and financial challenges of a post-COVID world and sets ambitious goals for the agency’s evolution and growth.

The new strategic plan, titled *My Metra, Our Future*, is an update to the last plan, *On Track to Excellence*, which primarily focused on Metra’s chronic operating and capital funding shortfalls. The new plan acknowledges that those shortfalls have been somewhat addressed in the near term but remain a concern. At the same time, Metra faces a variety of new challenges brought on by the pandemic, including new commuting patterns, demands for new service options and attracting and retaining workers. In addition, Metra recognizes the need to provide equitable, sustainable, and environmentally friendly service.

“With the vision and goals that are outlined in this new strategic plan, we are recognizing that Metra must adapt and evolve to meet our riders’ and the region’s transit needs,” said Metra CEO/Executive Director Jim Derwinski. “It won’t be easy, but we will do everything within our ability and budget to achieve these goals and make our new vision a reality.”

The new plan was drafted and finalized with the assistance of Metra customers, employees and Board members, regional stakeholders and others through two surveys and several open houses, meetings and workshops. Metra received more than 3,000 comments throughout the process.

The work started with the refinement of Metra’s Mission Statement to make it more concise and responsive to the community input we received. The statement aims to describe where Metra is now and what it does best:

Metra provides safe, reliable, efficient, and affordable commuter rail service that enhances the economic and environmental health of Northeast Illinois.

The Vision Statement in the new plan was then rewritten to reflect the impact of the pandemic, which upended Metra’s core market of riders traveling between home and downtown. Ridership patterns and demand for Metra service have permanently changed, and Metra intends to move towards a “regional rail” service model that provides more frequent service throughout the day to meet this demand, while still supporting peak demand during the traditional rush hour.

To proactively address evolving transportation needs, Metra will provide regional rail service that supports sustainable connected communities.

To fulfill its mission and move towards its vision, the strategic plan is built around five equally important and related goals. They reflect the evolving priorities of Metra, regional transit needs, and customers. They are:

- Enhance service to grow ridership and provide mobility choices
- Ensure the Metra experience is safe, easy, and enjoyable for all customers
- Attract a diverse workforce and invest in our employees
- Innovate to become more efficient and effective
- Be a socially responsible organization committed to equity and sustainability

Each of those five goals are linked to a set of objectives, with measures that will be used to evaluate the agency's progress.

The new strategic plan can be viewed at metra.com/strategic-plan.

###

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



Northwest Municipal Conference
February 2023

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Steven Andrews | (847) 997-1509 | Steven.Andrews@PaceBus.com
550 West Algonquin Road, Arlington Heights, Illinois 60005 • PaceBus.com

New Lower Fares - COMING SOON!

Everyone knows that using public transportation is more affordable than the cost of a car plus gasoline, parking, tolls and insurance. But as of February 20, 2023, Pace is making it even less expensive to use our service, and including new or cheaper pass products that reduce costs for those who ride Pace and CTA.

For those who pay for rides using stored value on your Ventra Card, you can now transfer from Pace bus to Pace bus for free! To take advantage of that free transfer, you must use a Ventra Card and the second ride must occur within two hours of the first ride.

For those who enjoy the convenience and affordability of unlimited ride passes, Pace is pleased to introduce a new Pace/CTA 1-Day Pass for \$5 and a new Pace/CTA 3-Day Pass for \$15. Additionally, the Pace/CTA 7-Day Pass is now only \$20. All those passes offer unlimited rides on Pace and CTA buses and trains. The existing 30-Day Passes are also still available.

Other fare costs are also reduced for those who are transferring to or from Pace Premium routes.

For all the details, see www.pacebus.com/news/new-lower-fares.



Pace's Annual Report

Pace's [2022 Annual Report](https://www.pacebus.com/pace-annual-reports), Transitions & Innovations, is available now. Pace is proud to show how we continue to serve our passengers in innovative ways. Our Annual Reports look at new projects, new services, and new goals for the future. We're always evolving because We're Driven For You!

<https://www.pacebus.com/pace-annual-reports>

Upcoming Pre-Hire Events

Looking for a great job? Meet with Pace Bus at special pre-hire events to help prepare you for employment with Pace!

Pace and Harper College offer a customized two-week course to assist qualified applicants in obtaining their CDL permit. Interested applicants begin by attending a three-hour pre-hire event to meet with Pace staff and complete a screening process which includes application completion, an assessment questionnaire, and a background check. All candidates must bring a valid Illinois driver's license and a [DMV or Secretary of State Motor Vehicle Report \(MVR, also called "Driving Record Abstract" in Illinois\)](#) with a good driving record over the last five years.

Pace removes financial barriers associated with the Class "B" commercial driver's license (CDL) permit course by covering the costs of tuition, training, books, fees, and other expenses.

Meet with Pace Bus at upcoming pre-hire events:

- **Feb. 16, 2023 | Harper College (American Job Center)**
1 PM – 4 PM | [Learn more here!](#)
- **Feb. 21, 2023 | Harper College**
6 PM – 9 PM | [Learn more here!](#)

Other events are regularly posted, so check back [at this page](#) to see if there is an upcoming event.

[Click here for a list of all open positions.](#)



Memorandum

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

To: Regional Leaders
From: Anthony Cefali
and Kyle Whitehead,
Government Affairs
Date: 2/15/23

February 2023 Update

RTA Board adopts regional *Transit is the Answer* strategic plan

On February 16th the RTA Board voted to adopt [Transit is the Answer](#), the 2023 regional transit strategic plan that has been in development for more than a year. The plan offers improvements to the regional transit system and evaluates revenue options to address a \$730 million annual operating budget gap in 2026.

The plan's vision is "Safe, reliable, accessible public transportation that connects people to opportunity, advances equity and combats climate change." It outlines 14 key Areas of Advocacy and Action that were co-created with stakeholders to guide priorities in areas like funding, safety, speed, and reliability. The plan also identifies several actions that the RTA, Chicago Transit Authority (CTA), Metra and Pace will work together on this year, including pursuing additional funding for operations, convening a safety and security summit, exploring an expanded regional free or reduced fare program for people experiencing low incomes, and developing a regional transit climate action plan.

To implement the plan, RTA is launching a regional coalition that will help advocate for sustainable funding for transit and shape the future of the system. The coalition will meet quarterly with the ability to participate virtually. Local governments and advocates are invited to [join the coalition](#).

RTA awards grants to help communities become more transit-friendly

The RTA Board approved the [2023 Community Planning Program of Projects](#) to provide funding and technical assistance to local governments to help foster the growth of sustainable, equitable, walkable, and transit-friendly communities. Highlights include supporting a community mobility center in Bronzeville near the 51st Street Green Line Station, a transit-oriented development plan for downtown Joliet, and a transportation and development study in Riverdale near two Metra stations in the South Suburbs.

Metra, CTA awarded federal funds for station accessibility

In December, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) [awarded the Chicago region more than \\$185 million](#) in federal funds to make more of the region's rail stations fully accessible to people with disabilities. The CTA received \$118.5 million to modernize its Irving Park, Belmont, and Pulaski stations and make them fully

ADA accessible, while Metra won \$66.6 million for accessibility upgrades at 95th Street-Chicago State University and 59th/60th Street stations on the Metra Electric line. Funding came from the [All Stations Accessibility Program \(ASAP\)](#), a new federal grant program established in the IIJA that funds accessibility improvements for legacy rail systems.