

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
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Lake Bluff
Lake Forest
Lake Zurich
Libertyville
Lincolnshire
Lincolnwood
Morton Grove
Mount Prospect
Niles
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Northfield
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Northwest Municipal Conference

Transportation Committee

Agenda

Thursday, September 28, 2023

8:30 a.m.

NWMC Offices and Video Conference

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85195976063>

Meeting ID: 851 9597 6063

Passcode: 681200

Dial by your location: (312) 626-6799

- I. **Call to Order/Introductions**
- II. **May 25, 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**
 - f. **Pace (Attachment D)**
 - g. **RTA (Attachment E)**
- IV. **Village of Schaumburg Pavement Assessment and Management Program**

David Lawry from Chastain & Associates LLC will discuss the American Council of Engineering Companies of Illinois (ACEC-IL) award that the *Village of Schaumburg* received for their work on Pavement Assessment and Management.

Action Requested: Informational/Discussion
- V. **CMAP PART Draft Plan Discussion (Attachment F)**

Staff will lead a discussion regarding the recently released draft Plan of Action for Regional Transit (PART) created by the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP). The Final report is due to be presented to the CMAP Board/ MPO Policy Committee on October 11.

Action Requested: Discussion
- VI. **Other Business**
- VII. **Next Meeting**

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**

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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
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**Northwest Municipal Conference
Transportation Committee
Meeting Minutes**

Members Present

Rodney Craig, Mayor, Hanover Park, Chair
Heather Lis, Development Services Engineer, Barrington
Bob Benton, Trustee, Deerfield
Eric Heiker, Civil Engineer, Des Plaines
Maggie Jablonski, Deputy Village Manager, Elk Grove Village
Jeff Brady, Director of Community Development, Glenview
Bill McLeod, Mayor, Hoffman Estates
Sean Dorsey, Director of Public Works, Mount Prospect
Bob Israel, Trustee, Northbrook
Lou Arrigoni, Civil Engineer, Park Ridge
Peter Falcone, Assistant Administrator, City of Prospect Heights
Lara Sanoica, Mayor, Rolling Meadows
Karyn Robles, Director of Transportation, Schaumburg
Samantha Maximillian, Senior Engineer, Skokie

Others Present

Jack Bielak, Village Engineer, Northbrook
Cecilia Diaz, Project Manager, CCDOTH
Erin Aleman, Executive Director, CMAP
Laura Wilkison, Senior Director and Policy Advisor, CMAP
Kelsey Passi, Community Relations Corridor Manager, Illinois Tollway
Katelyn Dote, Legislative Affairs Liaison, Metra
Jess Rybarczyk, Pace Suburban Bus
Audrey Wennink, Senior Director of Transportation, Metropolitan Planning Council
Kendra Johnson, Associate of Intergovernmental Policy, RTA
Dan Jedrzejak, Principal, Chastain & Associates
Caden Nakai, Village of Barrington
Tom Gill, President, Thomas Engineering Group
Larry Bury, Deputy Director, NWMC
Eric Czarnota, Program Associate for Transportation, NWMC
Brian Larson, Program Associate for Transportation, NWMC

I. Call to Order/Introductions

Mayor Craig called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

II. March 23, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Trustee Benton moved approval of the March 23, 2023 minutes. Trustee Israel 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**
Ms. Diaz highlighted [CCDTH's interactive map of project construction](#), and Cook County's release of its first [Bike Plan](#).
- c. **IDOT Highways**
Report was attached to the agenda.
- d. **Illinois Tollway**
Ms. Passi discussed the IPASS Assist program and establishment of corresponding income threshold eligibility program, a new IPASS App, and a notice violation system.
- e. **Metra**
Ms. Dote discussed service adjustments to UP-W and UP-N lines, with schedule [changes available on Metra's website](#). She indicated that schedule adjustments take approximately 6-8 weeks to process.
- f. **Pace**
Ms. Rybarczyk reported that Pace would be hosting an upcoming Hire on the Spot event at their headquarters in Arlington Heights.
- g. **RTA**
Ms. Johnson highlighted Transit is the Answer coalition kickoff event held last month. She said Director Redden attended a Washington DC advocacy trip with service board leaders, and RTA is resuming the Transportation Tuesday webinar series.

IV. CMAP State of the Region Presentation

Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) Executive Director Erin Aleman presented the agency's State of the Region that celebrated the organizations and individuals successfully working to improve northeastern Illinois, its communities, and its people, while bringing attention to public sentiment on key quality-of-life issues.

Mayor Craig asked about how to focus on the gap in ADA accessibility and how to advertise community compliance to communities in need. Ms. Aleman said that CMAP could provide guidance on that in the future.

V. CMAP PART Presentation

Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) Senior Director and Policy Advisor Laura Wilkison presented the Plan of Action for Region Transit (PART) project. CMAP is convening representatives from the business, community, environmental, labor, and civic sectors to develop and submit this plan to the governor and General Assembly on or before January 1, 2024.

Mayor Craig raised the issue of safety and governance of transit to bring back ridership, and Trustee Israel raised the issue of funding structures avoiding the service boards taking funding from each other.

VI. Future Transportation Committee Dates

Mr. Czarnota shared the recommended meeting schedule and hybrid format. The meeting schedule was approved unanimously.

VII. Other Business

Mr. Czarnota shared [MPC's Bike and Ped Database](#) that Ms. Wennink presented at the latest Bike Ped Committee. Ms. Wennink indicated that the database will be eventually moved over to CMAP.

VIII.

Next Meeting

Mr. Czarnota announced that the next meeting of the NWMC Transportation Committee is scheduled for Thursday, September 28 at 8:30 a.m. at the NWMC offices and via videoconference.

IX.

Adjourn

Mayor Craig moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:36 a.m. Trustee Israel seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.



What's new



More free accessibility trainings coming this fall

Thank you to the more than 50 attendees who joined the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) and our regional partners last Thursday for the first of our series of fall accessibility trainings. If you were unable to attend, resources from CMAP's spring 2023 trainings — including slides, handouts, and captioned videos — are [available now on our website](#).

There are still spots available to attend CMAP's fall ADA trainings.

Module 2: ADA coordinator training

- When: Wednesday, October 11, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

- Where: [Brookfield Village Hall, 8820 Brookfield Ave, Brookfield, IL 60513](#)

Module 3: ADA self-evaluation and design standards

- When: Wednesday, November 8, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- Where: [Arlington Heights Senior Center, 1801 W Central Rd, Arlington Heights, IL 60005](#)

Module 4: ADA transition plans

- When: Thursday, November 9, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- Where: [Arlington Heights Senior Center, 1801 W Central Rd, Arlington Heights, IL 60005](#)

Register now

New public right-of-way accessibility guidelines videos address PROWAG final rule

The [U.S. Access Board](#) posted five new training videos on YouTube that walk through the final rule on accessibility guidelines for pedestrian facilities in the public right-of-way (PROWAG). These guidelines address access to sidewalks and streets, crosswalks, curb ramps, pedestrian signals, on-street parking, and other components of the public right-of-way.

Watch the training videos

CMAP updates



From left to right: Jennifer "Sis" Killen, Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways superintendent, MPO Policy Committee vice chair; Omer Osman, Illinois Department of Transportation secretary, MPO Policy Committee chair; Erin Aleman, CMAP executive director; Gerald Bennett, Palos Hills mayor, CMAP Board chair; and Diane Williams, former Flossmoor trustee.

Plan of Action for Region Transit marks significant milestone

You may have seen CMAP in the news lately as the Plan of Action of Regional Transit (PART) [moves toward achieving a legislative mandate](#). The state legislature tasked CMAP with developing recommendations that address our regional transit system's looming fiscal crisis and propose solutions that transform and strengthen the region's transit system.

PART includes specific recommendations to improve accessibility, safety, and the rider experience. These and many more recommendations are detailed in the draft plan, now available online for review. The final plan will be submitted to the state legislature by January 1, 2024.

[Learn about PART and read the draft plan](#)

[Get involved](#)

DOJ Listening Session: Notice of Proposed Rulemaking Title II Website/App Accessibility



Great Lakes  Center



Registration available at:
ada-accessibletech.org

Provide input on web accessibility in government

The ADA National Network and Great Lakes ADA Center are holding a listening session with representatives from the Disability Rights Section of the U.S. Department of Justice regarding their Notice of Proposed Rulemaking regarding the accessibility of web information and services for state and local government.

- **When:** September 26, 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. CST
- **Registration deadline:** September 25
- **Virtual** listening session will be held on Zoom

[Learn more and register](#)

Fall 2023 Virtual ADA Conference registration open until September 30

The ADA Coordinator Training Certification (ACTC) Program's 2023 Fall ADA Conference is coming up **October 9 - 11**. There is still time to register before the deadline on **September 30 at 6:00 p.m.**

The three-day virtual training offers multiple sessions covering different aspects of the ADA. Membership in the ACTC Program is not required to attend this conference; credits are available upon request.

Register for the 2023 Fall ADA Conference

Events

Online events

[Maps for All – Building Accessible Maps](#)

September 26

Host: Great Lakes ADA Center

[DOJ Listening Session: Notice of Proposed Rulemaking Title II Website/App Accessibility](#)

September 26

Host: ADA Nation Network and Great Lakes ADA Center

[Accessibility Guidelines for Pedestrian Facilities in the Public Right-of-Way](#)

October 5

Host: Great Lakes ADA Center

[2023 Fall ADA Conference](#)

October 9 - 11

Host: ADA Coordinator Training Certification Program

[Ask an ADA Professional Questions RE: The Interactive Process for Employment Accommodations](#)

October 11

Host: Great Lakes ADA Center

In-person events

[ADA coordinator training](#)

October 11

Host: CMAP

[ADA self-evaluation and design standards training](#)

November 8

Host: CMAP

[Chicago City Civics Day](#)

November 4

Host: City of Chicago

[ADA transition plan training](#)

November 9

Host: CMAP

The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) is northeastern Illinois' comprehensive planning organization. The agency and its partners developed and are implementing ON TO 2050, a long-range plan to help the seven counties and 284 communities of our region address transportation, equity, the environment, and other quality-of-life issues. [Visit CMAP's website](#) for more information.



Chicago Metropolitan
Agency for Planning



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

#

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

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>.





Work for Pace!



Join us for a Pace Bus Hiring Event!

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

The screening process will include:

- Application Completion
- Computer Assessment/Questionnaire
- Background Check (Case-by-case/non-violent offense)
- Vouchers Provided for Drug Screens

Must have a valid Illinois driver's license and go to the DMV or Secretary of State for a court ordered Motor Vehicle Report (MVR) (also called Driving Record Abstract) with a good driving record in the last 5 years.

For more information, visit <https://www.ilsos.gov/>

Pace Bus Hiring Event

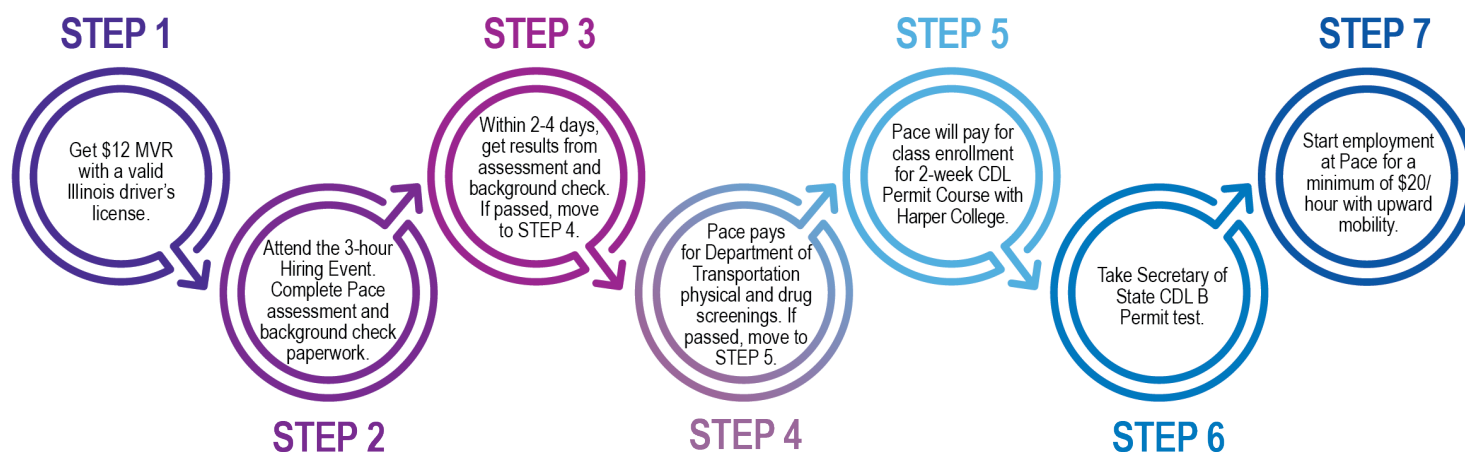
Wednesday, September 27, 2023
6-9pm (Begins promptly at 6)

Harper College, Building H, Room 248
 1200 W. Algonquin Rd, Palatine, IL 60067

CDL Class B Permit Training

M/W/F, Oct. 23-Nov. 3, 2023, 9am-3pm
 through Harper College Continuing Professional Education.

The total investment for students is only \$12.



Contact cpe@harpercollege.edu | harpercollege.edu/pro | PaceBus.com/Careers

Harper College is committed to the policy that all persons shall have equal access to its programs, facilities, and employment without regard to race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, disability, public assistance status, veteran status or sexual orientation.



Memorandum

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

September 2023 Update

Transit is the Answer in Action

RTA staff continues to communicate to local, state, and federal leaders about the strategic plan and the importance of transit to the region. Chairman Dillard recently penned a [Letter to the Editor](#) in the Sun-Times outlining how increased investment will allow the transit system to adapt, attract more riders, expand access, grow our economy, and combat climate change.

New Transit is the Answer Website

The RTA has launched a new website to track progress toward safer, more reliable, more accessible public transportation for the Chicago region. [Transistheanswer.org](https://transistheanswer.org) is an interactive hub for advocacy efforts to fund and improve the region's transit system as outlined in the agency's 5-year strategic plan, *Transit is the Answer*, and its 14-item Action and Advocacy agenda.

TransistheAnswer.org will be updated frequently with blog posts, performance metrics, event notifications, and other news and deliverables from the RTA, CTA, Metra, and Pace on progress toward the vision adopted with *Transit is the Answer* in February 2023.

Transit is the Answer Coalition Discusses Safety and Security

The RTA has convened a group of riders, advocates, agency staff, and community leaders who will advocate for sustainable transit funding and help shape the future of the system. The *Transit is the Answer* Coalition meets quarterly to develop and pursue strategies for strengthening the transit system and making it more useful for all residents. This initiative is a continuation of the robust engagement that informed the development of *Transit is the Answer*.

The Coalition held its second meeting on August 8 to receive an update on the RTA's planned 2023 activities and a discussion about [safety and security on the transit system](#). RTA staff gathered thoughts from Coalition members to help shape the content and purpose of the cross-sector Safety Summit planned for later this year. A recording of the meeting and recap are available on the [RTA's blog](#), and attendees are encouraged to fill out a short [feedback survey](#) to help plan future

Memorandum

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

meetings. To receive updates on the Coalition and future meeting information, please [sign up on the RTA's website](#).

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 an outreach campaign to promote the program.

RTA Makes Enhancements to ADA Paratransit Certification and Fare Programs

The RTA's Mobility Services department has made a variety of recent enhancements to two programs that improve access to transportation for older adults and people with disabilities: the ADA Paratransit Certification program and Reduced Fare and Ride Free programs. Improvements have streamlined the process, cut wait times for customers, modernized the applications, and cut over \$400,000 in agency expenses. More details on the program changes are available on the [RTA's blog](#) and fares.rtachicago.org

RTA Awards Section 5310 – Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program of Projects

At September's Board of Directors meeting, the RTA Board approved \$20 million in funds for the federal [FY2022-2023 Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program of Projects](#). Included in the approved programming are \$800,000 in additional funds directed to Clearbrook, an existing program that provides transportation services to more than 6,000 seniors and individuals with disabilities; as well as \$1,860,000 to the Little City Foundation, another existing project which provides transportation services to seniors and individuals with developmental disabilities. The Section 5310 program is a federally funded program with recipients responsible for the local match.



Plan of Action for Regional Transit
Northeastern Illinois

Northwest Municipal Conference
Sept. 28, 2023



Chicago Metropolitan
Agency for Planning

Transit is about people.



Mobility

Transit moves riders and non-riders



Economy

Transit drives the region's economy



Climate

Transit improves air quality and our climate



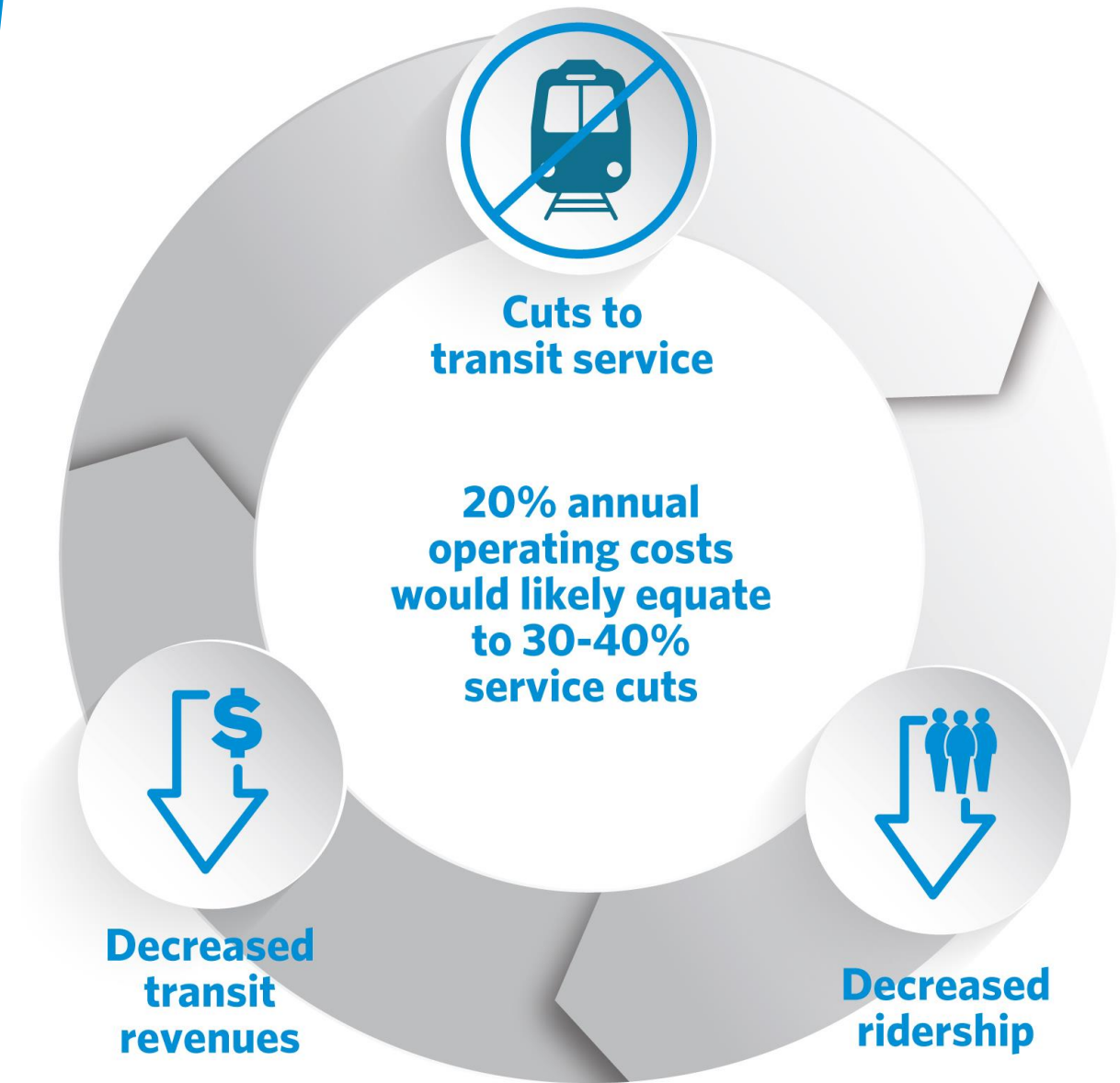
Equity

Transit connects people to opportunities

**“Regional success
relies on transit.”**

- ON TO 2050

The creators of this
report believe the
cost of inaction is far
greater than the
cost of action.



The system we want



Focus on transit service



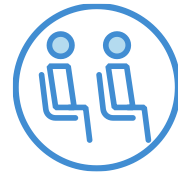
Provide integrated and affordable fares



Enable faster and more reliable bus service



Bolster public confidence in the system



Rebuild a ridership base:
Enable the system's evolution into regional rail

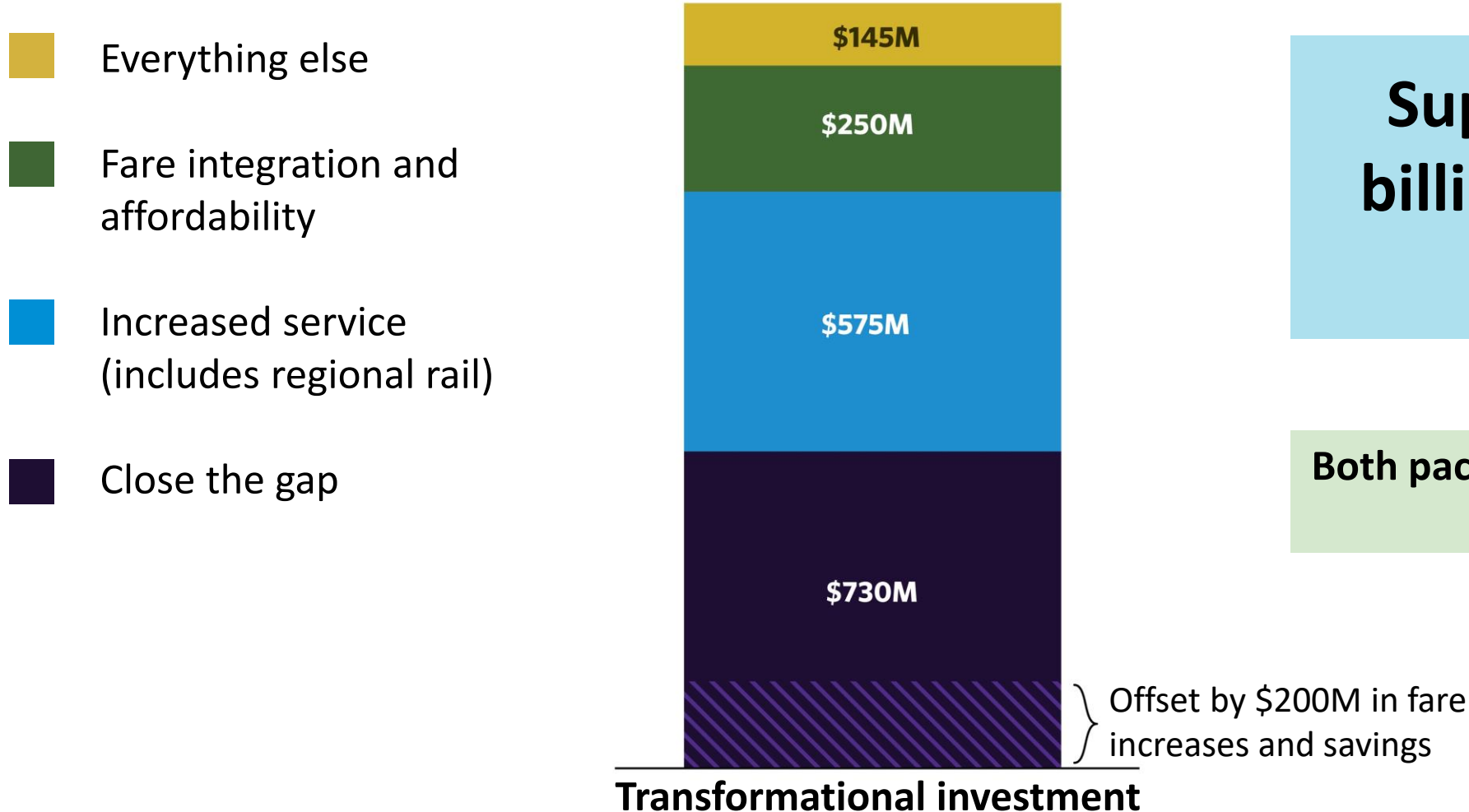


Rebuild a ridership base:
Foster transit-supportive land use and development



Invest in a universally accessible system

The system the region wants requires investment



Supported by \$1.5 billion in new public revenue

Both packages also require additional capital investment

Funding priorities

- The transit system itself must continue to contribute significantly to satisfying operating needs.
- More robust state support for transit is critical.
- Stable, dedicated funding is needed for paratransit.
- Transportation revenues should fund transportation investments.
- Funding solutions should deliver co-benefits for equity and climate goals.
- Revenues should maintain buying power over time.

Revenue categories across packages

System-generated revenues
Fares, containing cost growth

Baseline actions
State recommendations on paratransit
and funding current reduced fare programs

Durable sources
New revenues that make sense to
implement and keep over the long-term

Diminishing / stop-gap sources
Revenues that make sense to implement now
but retire over the long-term

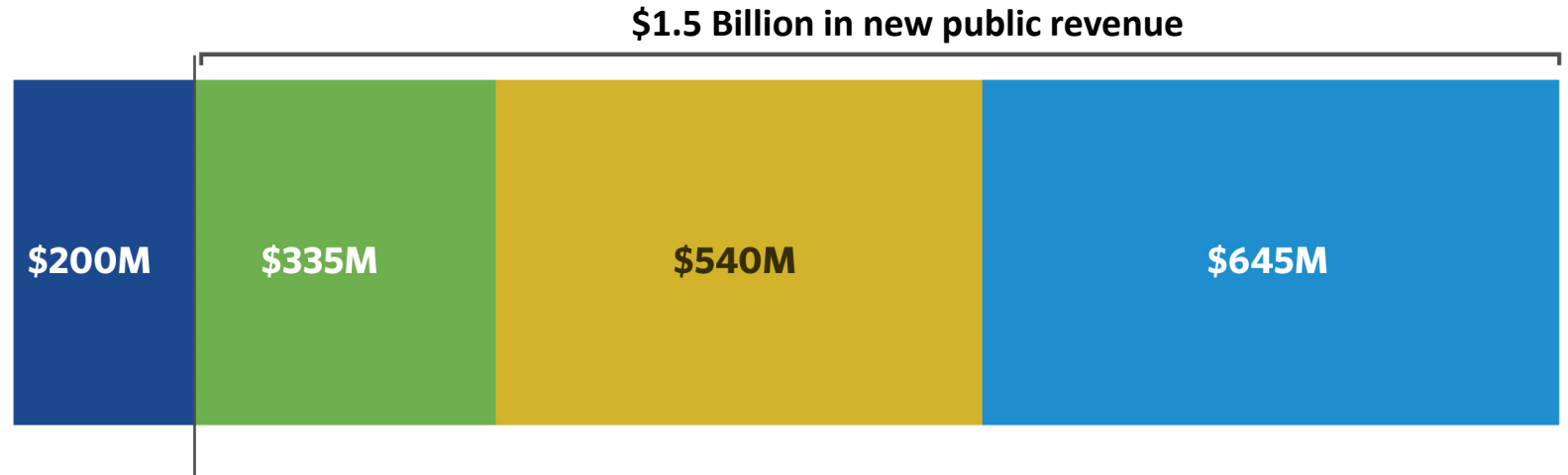
Capital sources
Funds to support package investments over time

Two funding packages

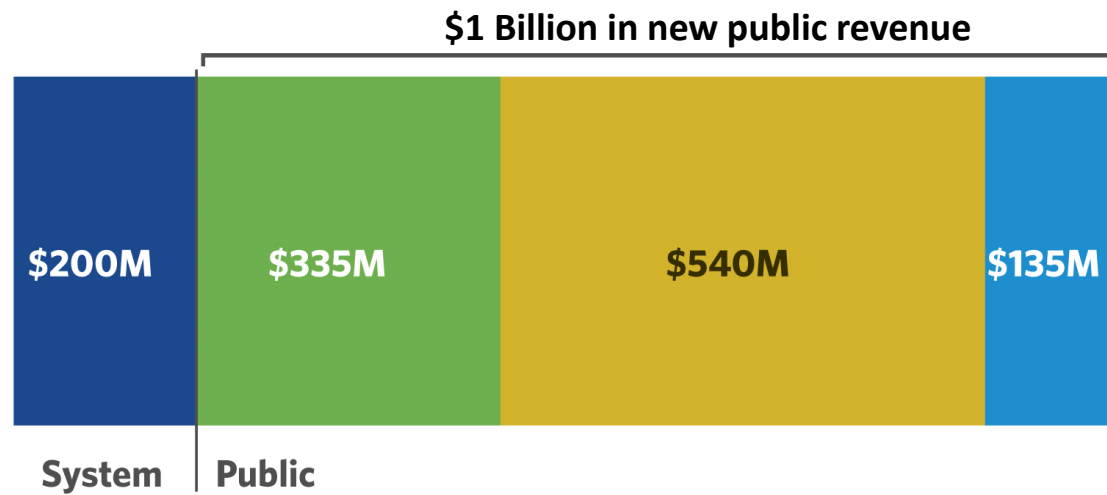
Operating revenues

- System generated
- Baseline actions
- Durable sources
- Diminishing or stopgap sources

Transformational investment



Meaningful change



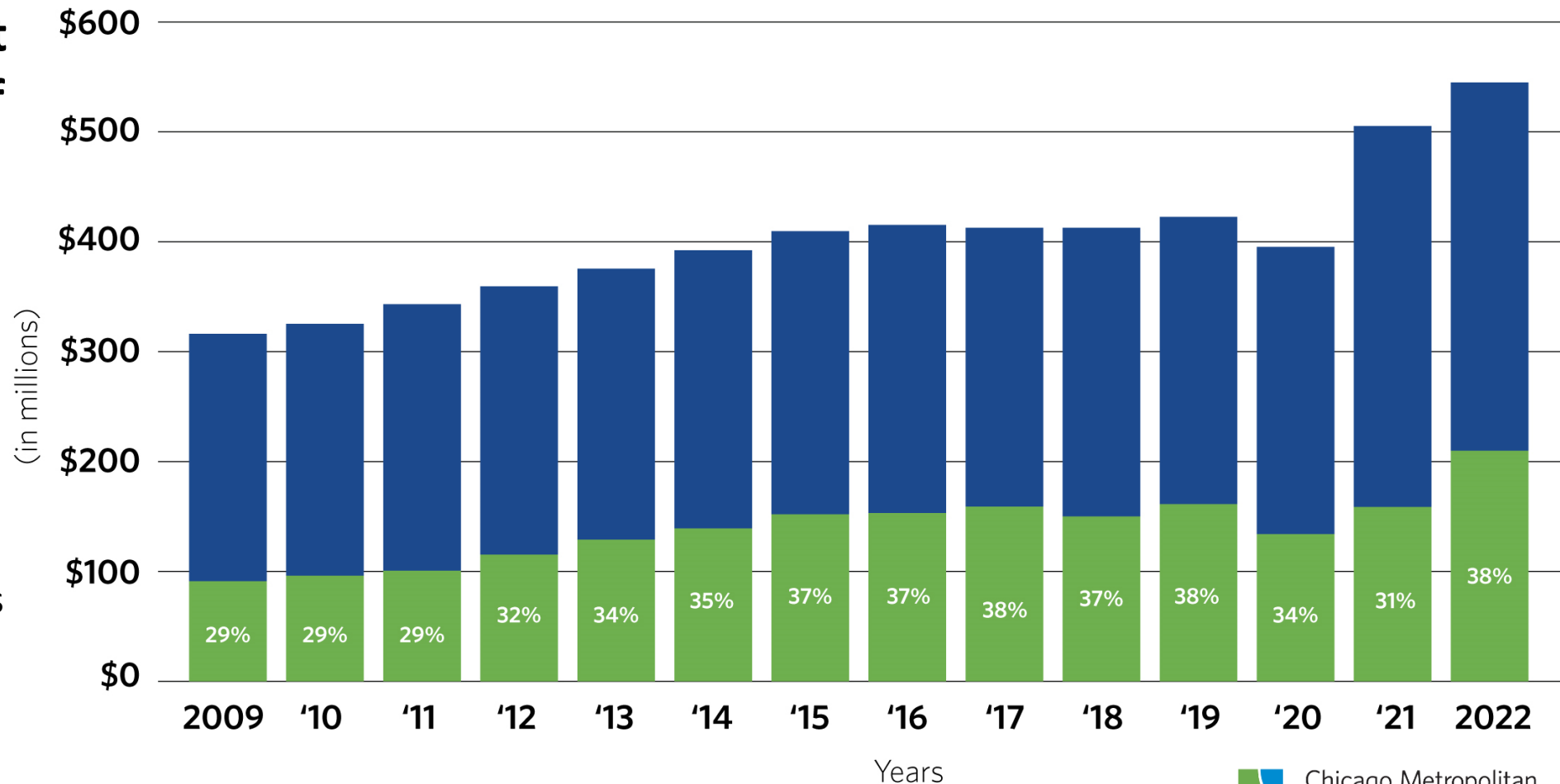
Note: Values are approximate and illustrative of scale.

Increased state support is warranted

Statutory paratransit funding as a share of sales tax II revenues and the associated state match, 2009-2022

■ Total Sales Tax II & PTF II funds

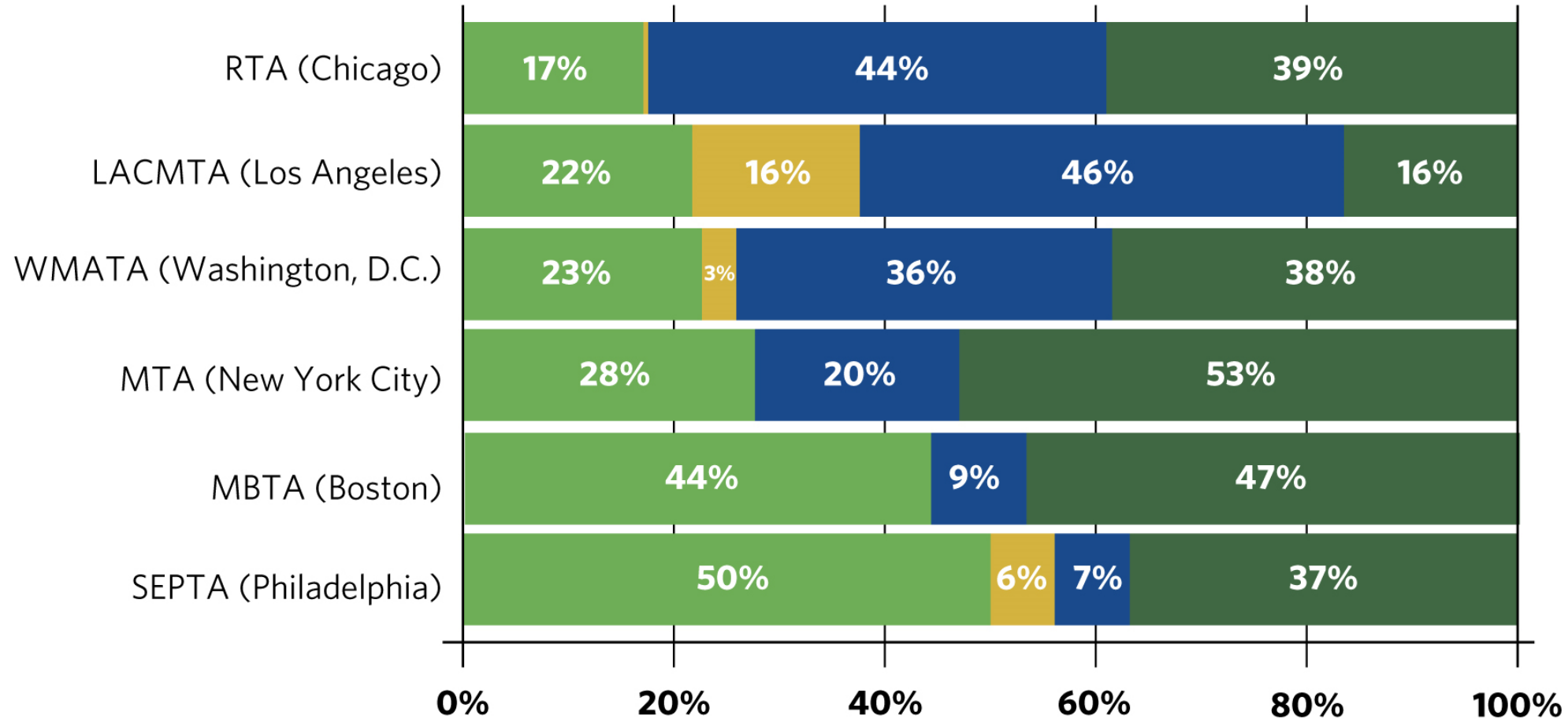
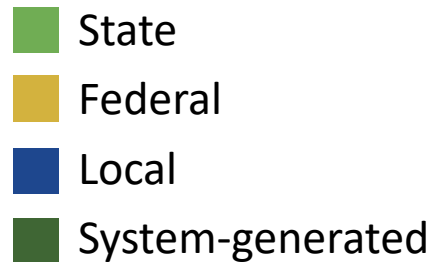
■ Pace ADA drawdown of Sales Tax II & PTF II funds



Source: CMAP analysis of RTA budget data.

Peer states contribute more

Sources of operating revenues for peer regional transit systems, 2019



Both packages rely on a suite of new revenue proposals

Both packages include a core of shared revenue sources

System-generated revenues \$200 million	Baseline actions \$335 million	Durable sources \$540 million
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Raise fares• Savings/contain cost growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Full state funding for paratransit and reduced fares• Remove state surcharge on RTA sales tax	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Expand sales tax base on services (broad)• Extend PTF match to new sales tax• Parking tax in the Chicago CBD• Raise vehicle registration fees in region \$10/car tax

Diminishing or stop-gap sources vary between packages (specific revenues could be swapped or replaced)

<i>Transformational investment - \$645 million</i>	<i>Meaningful change - \$135 million</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Raise RTA sales tax in region by 0.25%• Raise tolls on Tollway facilities (excludes trucks)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Raise the Motor Fuel Tax by 5 cents/gallon

Capital investment resources are also needed across both packages

Short-term capital options

MFT surcharge
Flex IDOT federal funds to transit capital
Raise tolls on existing Tollway facilities

Medium and long-term capital options

Road usage charge (RUC)
Congestion pricing
Toll IDOT freeways
CBD cordon
Financialize future carbon policies



	Transformational investment	Meaningful change
Annual costs	\$400M+	\$200M
One-time costs	\$220M	\$220M

Principles for governance reform

Funding allocation

Prioritize regional goals and decision-making instead of statutory funding formulas

Grant more regional discretion over how funds should be allocated

Performance metrics

Reduce the farebox recovery ratio requirement

Empower the regional agency to look beyond the fare recovery ratio and set updated performance metrics based on regional strategies and goals

Regional coordination

Implement the regional decision-making and oversight necessary to advance system goals

Provide sufficient tools to strengthen the regional entity

Governance reform: Regional board appointments

Design board appointment and voting structures to advance regional progress while building local consensus

Integrate more regional perspectives

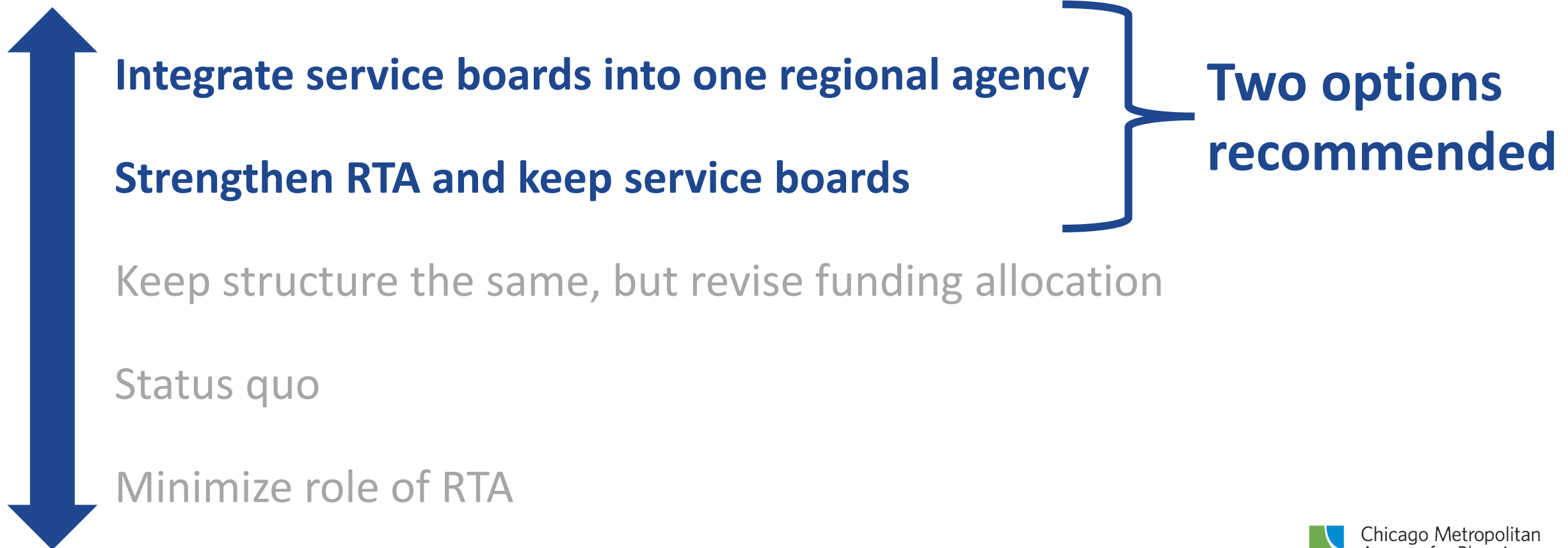
Provide avenues for local input

Ensure that regional board membership reflects population, ridership, and funding sources

Appoint board members with relevant and diverse experiences
Provide a greater role for the state, especially as it increases its funding support

Structural reform options

Evaluated multiple options



Integrated agency

Regional board + agency executive

Regional entity

Regional transit functions:

- Fare policy
- Financial stewardship
- Capital planning
- Capital funding
- Service planning
- Strategic planning

Regional corporate functions

- HR & admin
- Selection of agency executive
 - Pensions
 - Procurement
- Communications
- Labor negotiations

Service committee

Metra

*Transit operations, daily
service decisions*

Service committee

CTA

*Transit operations, daily
service decisions*

Service committee

Pace

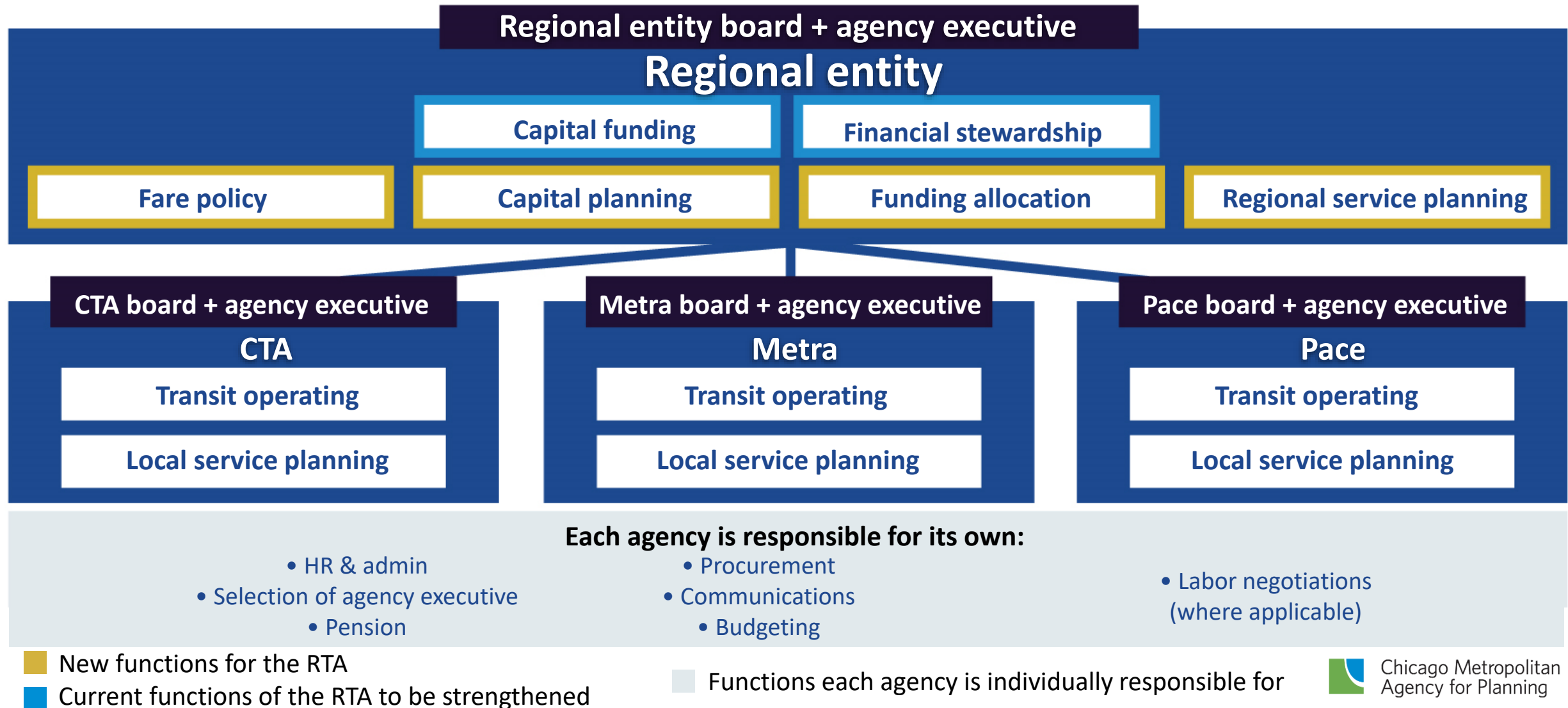
*Transit operations, daily
service decisions*

Service committee

Paratransit, On Demand

*Transit operations, daily
service decisions*

Strengthened and re-envisioned RTA



Next Steps

Draft to Board/MPO today

Resolution approval sought from Board/MPO on October 11

Deliver report to General Assembly and Governor's office

Provide briefing to General Assembly

Support legislative actions

Provide further analysis & research



Chicago Metropolitan
Agency for Planning

Thank you!

Visit cmap.is/PART for information and resources.

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Wilkison at lwilkison@cmap.illinois.gov.

@cmapillinois |    