



Buses staged at Pace's East Dundee garage facility, managed by Pace River Division. Pace's existing River Division garage will be expanded to allow more space for services operating along I-90 and locally in Elgin and the surrounding area.

## A-2 Capital Improvement Projects

Initiative: Implement all Pace capital projects funded through Rebuild Illinois, and produce a Facilities Plan to determine how Pace facilities will be used to support other service plans and initiatives.

**IMPLEMENT NOW**

implement later

further investigate

### Supports Goals:

Equity, Productivity, Responsiveness, Safety, Environmental Stewardship, and Fiscal Solvency

### ACTION ITEM 1 *Rebuild Illinois* State Capital Program

Illinois's nearly \$45 billion capital construction program, *Rebuild Illinois*, earmarks \$2.6 billion for public transit, of which \$228 million has been allocated for Pace. Metra and CTA also received a combined \$240 million in earmarks for capital projects through this funding source. As transit riders often make connections between CTA, Metra and Pace services, investments for all three service boards are expected to help improve the quality of public transportation regionally. Capital funding from the state is in addition to separate sources of funding all three agencies receive.

Additionally, *Rebuild Illinois* will allow new sources of annual revenues to fund capital projects, primarily through the Transportation Renewal Fund, which will reserve 18 percent of receipts towards public transportation projects in Northeastern Illinois.

Pace is working with IDOT, RTA, CTA and Metra to ensure program funding is expended quickly, effectively, and equitably across the region.



Illinois Governor JB Pritzker speaking about the \$45 billion Rebuild Illinois capital plan (Illinois Business Journal, 2020)

## Pace Capital Projects funded through Rebuild Illinois



**A**

### **I-55 garage & infrastructure**

Supports I-55 service expansion

**B**

### **River Division expansion**

Supports I-90 service

**C**

### **Wheeling garage, infrastructure, and CNG-powered fleet**

Supports Pulse Milwaukee Line, Pulse Dempster Line implementation

**D**

### **North Shore Division expansion**

Supports I-94 service expansion, Pulse Dempster Line implementation

**E**

### **Harvey Transit Center improvements**

Supports I-294 service expansion, Pulse Halsted Line implementation

**F**

### **Southwest Division expansion**

Supports I-294 service expansion, Pulse 95th Street Line implementation

**G**

### **I-294 Tri-State service expansion**

New stations, park-n-ride lots

**H**

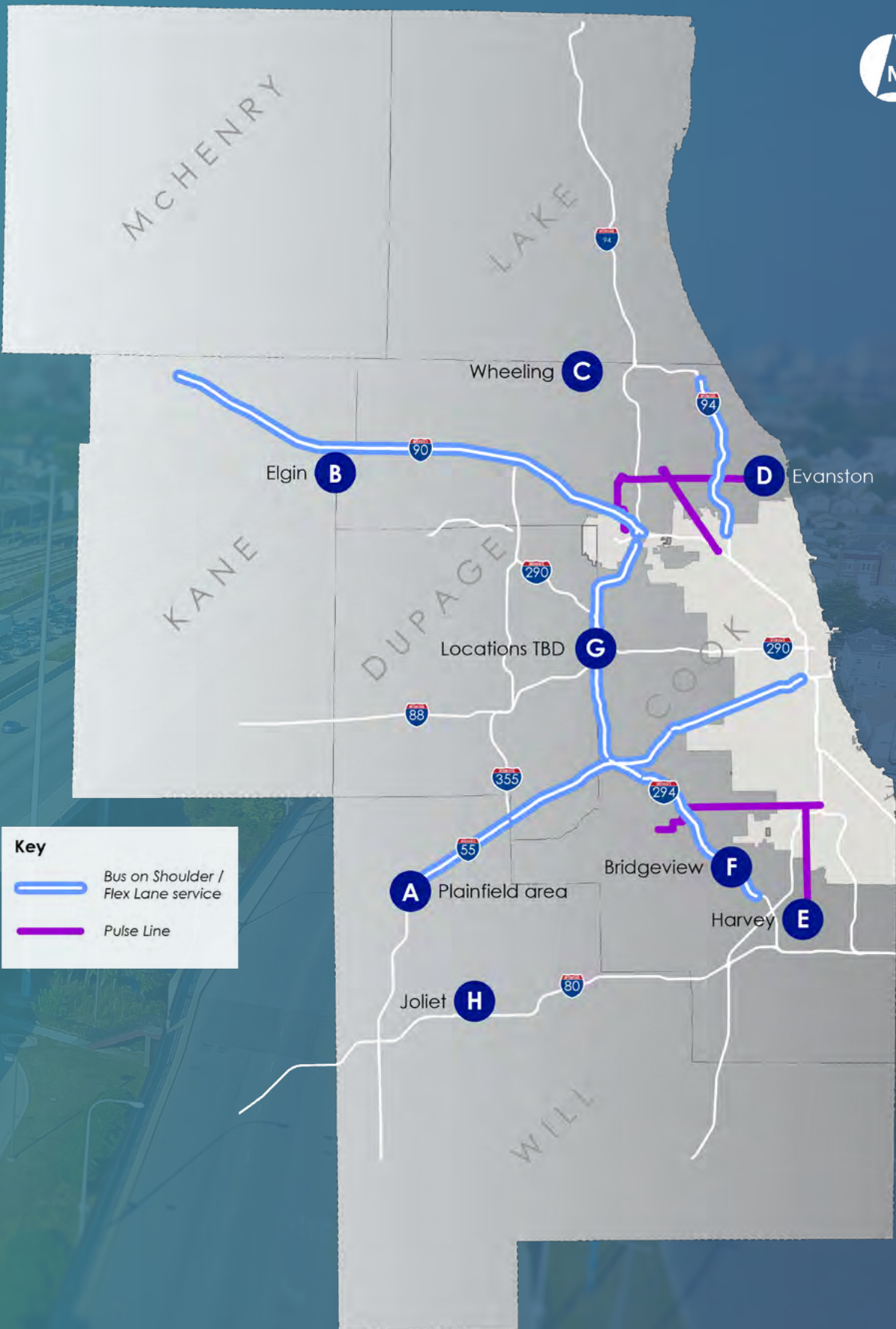
### **Joliet Multimodal Center**

*Systemwide Improvements*


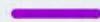
**Paratransit communications technology**

**Farebox system upgrade**

**REBUILD  
ILLINOIS** 



**Key**

-  Bus on Shoulder / Flex Lane service
-  Pulse Line

### I-55 Express Bus Garage and Infrastructure



Pace Heritage Division has exceeded its garage capacity and cannot support further growth of Pace's successful I-55 Bus on Shoulder service. A new garage facility will be built in Plainfield, Illinois and allow Pace to further expand this service, reduce deadhead times, and alleviate overcrowding on buses.

### River Division Expansion and Improvements



Pace is in the process of purchasing a 2.7-acre property adjacent to River Division, located in Elgin. Expanding the garage would support the agency's new I-90 Express service and consolidate buses currently using space in East Dundee, eliminating significant leasing costs.

### Wheeling Garage, Infrastructure and CNG-powered fleet



Pace has purchased a 23-acre site in Wheeling with an existing 430,000-square foot building to replace its existing Northwest Division, which is overcrowded and functionally obsolete. Pace is converting the existing building in Wheeling into a CNG bus garage and improving adjacent roads. Improvements support the implementation of Pace rapid transit service on the Pulse Milwaukee and Dempster Lines.

### North Shore Division Expansion and Improvements



Pace North Shore Division, located in Evanston, is currently at capacity and expansion is needed to support future growth, including rapid transit service such as new Pulse lines and future expansion of Express bus service on I-94 Edens Expressway. Additionally, necessary improvements will be made to the existing 80,000-square-foot building.

## Pace Capital Projects to Support Rapid Transit, Fixed Route, and Other Services



**Top photo** - The former Allstate building in Wheeling, Illinois is being converted to Pace's new Northwest Division garage and will feature compressed natural gas (CNG) fueled bus vehicles. Future Pulse lines may eventually be operated using this and other new and expanded facilities.

**Bottom-left photo** - A Pace motorcoach bus operates in the left shoulder of Interstate 55. A dedicated garage facility for I-55 Express bus service is being constructed, along with other service and facility improvements along the corridor.

**Bottom-right photo** - Pace's existing CNG fueling facilities at the agency's South Division garage in Markham.

## Harvey Transportation Center Improvements



The 20-year-old Harvey Transportation Center has been designated as being in poor condition according to Pace's Transit Asset Management (TAM) plan. Necessary improvements include pavement, lighting, platforms, shelters, restrooms, structures and systems. These improvements are needed to support the implementation of future rapid transit service on the Pulse Halsted Line, as well as I-294 Tri-State Express bus service.

Pace and Metra are partnering to redesign both the Pace Transit Center and Metra Harvey Station to better facilitate transfers between both agencies' services, in coordination with IDOT and the City to Harvey.

## Southwest Division Expansion and Improvements



Southwest Division, located in Bridgeview, is currently at capacity and expansion is needed to support future growth, including rapid transit service on the Pulse Network and future expansion of Express bus service on the I-294 Tri-State Tollway. Additionally, necessary improvements will be made to the existing 80,000-square-foot building.

## I-294 Tri-State Passenger Facilities



Pace will expand its expressway-based service network based on the success of its I-90 Flex Lane, I-55 and I-94 Bus-on-Shoulder service models. As part of the Central Tri-State project, the Illinois Tollway is constructing Flex Lanes along 22 miles of I-294 from Balmoral Avenue to 95th Street which will be available for Pace buses to operate on, similar to the I-90 service.



Pace and RTA are also teaming up with a new planning study to be completed in 2021 which identifies emerging transportation markets along this corridor that would benefit from the ability to bypass congestion along the Tri-State. This effort also proposes locations for constructing new facilities, and service concepts that could take advantage of these infrastructure improvements.

## Joliet Multimodal Center

Pace, in partnership with Metra and the City of Joliet, is developing a new bus terminal and multimodal center in downtown Joliet. The center will be constructed adjacent to the railroad at New Street, directly adjacent to the historic Union Station and Grand Ballroom and nearby Metra station. From this location, passengers will have improved access and amenities to foster transfers between local Pace service and the Metra Rock Island and Heritage lines, as well as Amtrak Lincoln and Texas Eagle services.



## ADA Communications Technology and Transfer Locations

Based on input from the riding public, Pace's two ADA Advisory Committees, and disability advocacy groups, Pace is developing several technology and transfer facility upgrades to improve the customer experience.

Please refer to the S-3 Paratransit Upgrades initiative for more details on these projects.

## Farebox System Upgrade

Pace is currently in the process of replacing its 37-year-old fareboxes. Pace has maintained these fare collection devices well-beyond their standard 15-year lifespans, to the point where replacement parts are no longer available. While the amount of cash collected has declined over the years as electronic fare media has become more widely used, providing fareboxes helps maintain an equitable way to collect fares throughout the region.

The project calls for all new physical equipment on buses and in garages, as well as new system architecture for the collection, maintenance, and reporting of data that should tie in with Ventra, the automated fare collection system used in region. The new system will be more reliable and provide more information compared with existing systems.

The project is a regional partnership with the CTA, and is expected to be awarded in late 2021 and completed between late 2022 and early 2023.





## ACTION ITEM 2 Systemwide Facilities Plan

Pace will conduct a Systemwide Facilities Plan, which will identify existing capital projects and associated future vehicle capacity to aid in developing a plan that sequences and integrates future capital needs with service upgrades. It will employ a data-driven approach to evaluate how garage maintenance facilities will be used to support service plans and other strategic initiatives will allow Pace to both continue deploying public resources in an efficient and equitable manner across the region while expanding the system to meet emerging markets.

For example, the timelines and development of specific garage expansions and vehicle allotments can be coordinated with individual Rapid Transit Program projects and planning initiatives. Similarly, other Pace fixed route and non-traditional services face changing needs in the future, and can be better paired with the construction and expansion of garage facilities.

Additionally, Pace currently operates a mixed fleet of vehicle technologies fueled by both diesel and compressed natural gas (CNG) and *Driving Innovation* calls for implementing battery electric bus (BEB) and other zero-emission bus (ZEB) technologies.

Critically, the facilities plan will feature a case study for investigating specific impacts of BEB for an individual garage location. For more information on BEB, please refer to the A-1 Electric Bus & Fleet Transition Planning initiative.

In this way, Pace will prepare for new vehicle technologies and associated facility needs as it advances major capital projects. Ultimately, a plan document with a prioritized list of projects will be developed from this synthesis to assist Pace in strategically investing capital dollars and services.

***Pace will prepare for new vehicle technologies and associated facility needs as it advances major capital projects.***



A clean diesel bus at Pace North Division in Waukegan, Illinois.

## Building on Success: Pace I-90 Barrington Road Station

Opened in 2018, the realization of Pace's I-90 Barrington Road Station was a multi-jurisdictional effort that is the region's first-ever highway-based bus rapid transit station. The station includes two in-line station platforms, served by Pace Routes 603, 605, 607 and 610, a 170-space park-n-ride lot on the north side of the station and a kiss-n-ride area on the south side. A climate-controlled, ADA-accessible pedestrian bridge over the tollway and two tunnels passing beneath ramps allow commuters to easily access eastbound and westbound buses and connect with other Pace services. Pace buses enjoy the benefit of never exiting the tollway to serve the station platforms, utilizing Pace and Tollway-only slip-ramps that branch from the regular interchange ramps.

This project was the result of extensive stakeholder collaboration between Pace, the Illinois Tollway and the Village of Hoffman Estates, who continues to champion for transit-supportive development.



This page: Aerial view of the Pace / I-90 Barrington Road Station in Hoffman Estates, Illinois.

Pace and its partners have been honored to receive several distinguished awards for their collective work on this project, including:

- American Planning Association, Illinois Chapter (APA-IL) 2018 Implementation Award for the Illinois Tollway SmartRoad & Pace I-90 Market Expansion Program Collaboration.
- American Council of Engineering Companies of Illinois (ACEC) 2019 Honor Award for Transportation.
- ACEC Illinois 2019 Lincoln Grand Conceptor Award (Project of the year for the State of Illinois).
- ACEC 2019 Engineering Excellence Awards, Honor Award (the Barrington Road project placed 17th nationally amongst 197 other award winners).
- American Public Works Association (APWA) Suburban Branch Chapter, 2019 Project of the Year, Transportation \$25 Million to \$75 Million.
- APWA Chicago Chapter- 2019 Project of the Year, Transportation \$25 Million to \$75 Million.
- American Public Transportation Association (APTA), 2020 Innovation Award.

