

2024

 pace
means
sustainability



Capital Program
Spring Update



ADVANCING TRANSIT'S FUTURE

Pace's progress toward a 100% zero-emissions bus (ZEB) fleet by 2040 would not be possible without substantial funding support from Illinois legislators, communities, and transit partners. On behalf of our nationally renowned agency, I am grateful for their advocacy.

This update highlights how Capital Program funds and related initiatives have enabled us to focus on sustainability – providing our riders and team with more electric vehicle (EV) charging stations for cars and Battery Electric Buses (BEBs), making our smart technology even smarter, building or renovating facilities to service a growing zero-emissions fleet, and more. *These are exciting stories to tell.*

Although Illinois transit agencies face a looming “fiscal cliff” in 2026, Pace will nurture our partnerships and maintain a balanced budget so that we can reach our environmental goals and continue to share exciting stories. As we work together, Pace will steadfastly honor our commitment to building a better transit future for all who live, work, and play throughout Northeastern Illinois.



Sincerely,

Melinda J Metzger

Melinda J. Metzger, Executive Director

A blue Pace bus is driving on a city street. The bus has the Pace logo on the top and the route number 349 HARVEY TC on the front. The background shows a city street with buildings, trees, and a stop sign.

“Ongoing legislative support and funding is essential for Pace to realize Project Zero’s goal of improving the region’s environmental conditions, beginning with economically disadvantaged areas.”

— JACKY GRIMSHAW

Vice President for Government Affairs, Center for Neighborhood Technology



THE CAPITAL PROGRAM AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

Pace's Capital Program is a set of projects designed to meet the needs of the people of Northeastern Illinois now and into the future by expanding service, improving connections, reducing our carbon footprint, and strengthening our infrastructure and technology.

Our focus on environmental responsibility continues to yield positive impacts for individuals, businesses, and communities throughout the region.

SPRING HIGHLIGHTS

These projects are advancing Pace's commitment to sustainability.

1

Heritage Division

PLAINFIELD

- Car and BEB charging infrastructure

2

North Division

WAUKEGAN

- 12 outdoor BEB chargers

3

River Division

ELGIN

- Pace's first electric ADA Paratransit vehicle

4

South Campus

MARKHAM

- Car and BEB charging infrastructure

5

Southwest Division

BRIDGEVIEW

- Car and BEB charging infrastructure
- First operational BEB (January 2024)

This state-of-the-art bus operates on Route 381, serving southwest suburban riders in Evergreen Park, Oak Lawn, Chicago Ridge, Bridgeview, Hickory Hills, and Palos Hills, and providing connections between the CTA Red Line and Moraine Valley Community College.

6

Ongoing ZEB Transition

VARIOUS LOCATIONS

- Delivery of 22 BEBs underway

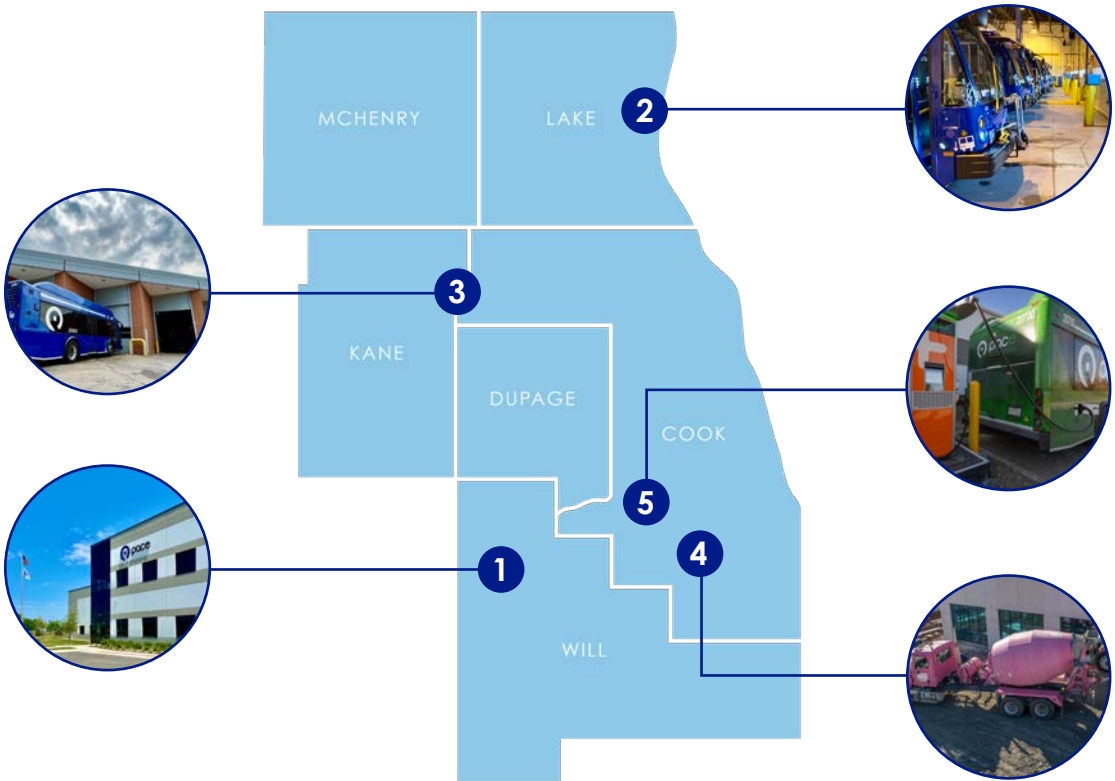
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Car Charging Infrastructure

SYSTEMWIDE

- 17 Level 2 car chargers (CCs):
One ADA at Bolingbrook-Old Chicago and **ADA/Standard (two at each location)**: Bolingbrook-Canterbury; I-90 Randall Road; I-90 IL25; I-90 Barrington Road; Pace HQ; Homewood; Buffalo Grove; and Blue Island.

These chargers join existing chargers: two Level 2 CCs at Pace HQ, and a Level 2 and Level 1 CC at Heritage Division in Plainfield. In 2024, the Northwest Transportation Center will receive two additional CCs, and South Campus will install a CC at each building.





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Project Zero

***Project Zero* is Pace's commitment to sustainability and sets the goal of operating a 100 percent zero-emissions fixed bus fleet by 2040.**

Funded partly by Capital Program monies, the initiative supports the goals of *Driving Innovation*, our long-term strategic vision plan that responds to dramatic changes taking place throughout the transportation industry.

To achieve this goal, Pace is studying the cost, challenges, and benefits of obtaining BEBs and fuel cell electric buses (FCEBs), as well as the scope and cost of developing the facilities required to house and service ZEBs.



“ We are grateful for the continued support, strong partnerships, and legislative funding that enabled our first electric bus launch earlier this year.”

— RICK KWASNESKI
Pace Chairman



FUNDING PROGRESS

Significant increases in Capital Program funding are required to meet the facility demands of a zero-emissions fleet, and Pace is actively working to secure additional funds now and in the future.

Capital Program Budget (2024-2028)

Rolling Stock

\$109.1M

Stations and Passenger Facilities

\$59.1M

Electrical/Signal/Communications

\$10.5M

Support Facilities and Equipment

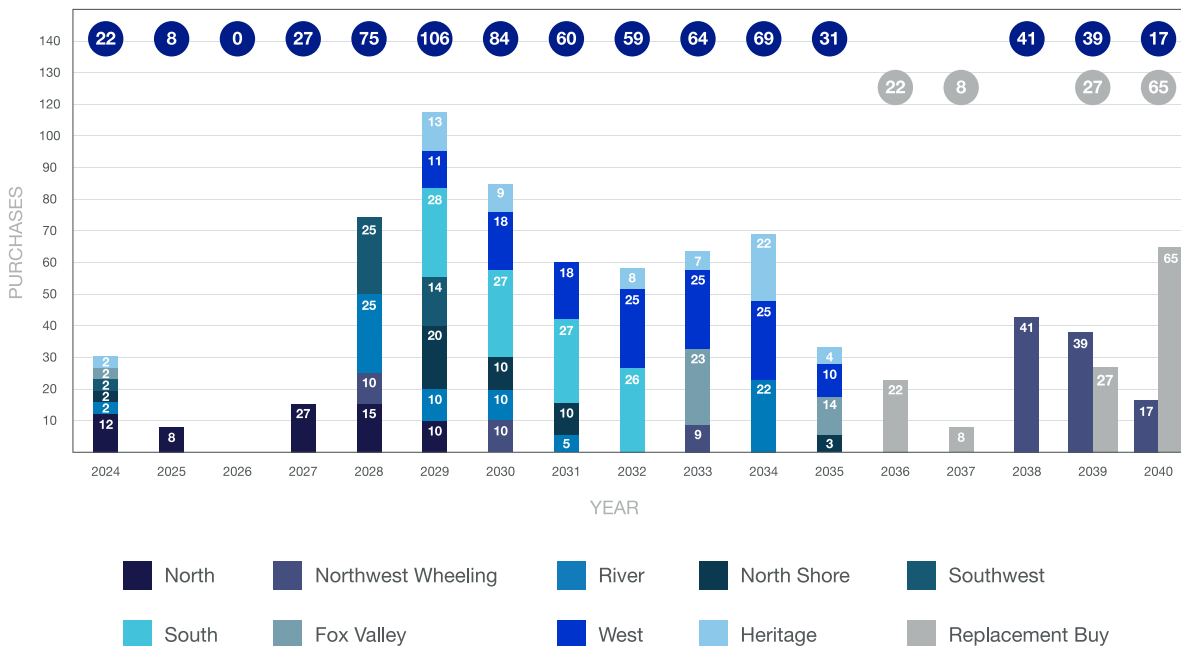
\$309.8M

Anticipated Yearly Zero-Emissions Fleet Expenditures

702 Zero Emissions Buses

122 Replacement Buys *

*Based on 12-year Useful Life Benchmark (ULB) replacement timing estimates, Pace also expects to purchase replacement Zero Emissions Buses between 2035 and 2040.



IMPACTS

Pace values *Accessibility, Safety, Efficiency, Equity,* and *Environmental Responsibility,* and our partnerships with leaders and communities throughout Northeastern Illinois help bring those values to life.

We're excited to feature the following individuals as they speak about our most recent collaborative efforts and celebrate the positive impact that the Capital Program is having on the region's transit network.



ROBERTO TORRES

Chief Mechanical Officer, Pace

“Pace’s goal comes with a big price tag, but we’re proud of our successes and not shying away from challenges.”

Committing to Our Goal

Working with Pace’s Capital Infrastructure team, Roberto oversaw the successful installation of BEB charging technology that supported Pace’s first ZEB launch from the Southwest Division in January.

He’s now working with our partners to install similar charging systems at North Shore, West, South, and Fox Valley; developing training programs with community colleges to certify zero-emission drivers and technicians; and supporting funding efforts to operate and maintain a 100 percent ZEB fleet by 2040.

“I rode public transportation to and from school while growing up in Chicago. I’m excited to be part of an agency that’s shaping a safe and sustainable future for public transit.”



Connecting Communities

With 12 ZEBs slated to operate from the North Division, and as the first garage to have an all-BEB fleet, Mayor Taylor looks forward to strengthening the relationship between the community and agency for years to come.

Taylor also predicts the comfort and quiet of a ZEB experience will draw more riders to the service while the facility undergoes a comprehensive conversion to fully electric operations by 2027.

Pace announced in February expanded evening services and fixed route service to disabled passengers with Americans with Disability certification to further support the city's riders. A training program for future operators is another way Pace is advancing its zero emission goals while prioritizing community needs.



ANN B. TAYLOR

Mayor, Waukegan

“Pace’s investment reflects their commitment to improving rider experiences, expanding job opportunities, and bettering our community’s environmental health.”





JOHN WALTON

Chair, Illinois Alliance for Clean Transportation (IACT)

“ Project Zero is a tremendous endeavor – one that benefits us all.”

Investing in Regional Health

John Walton and the IACT work throughout Illinois with numerous organizations to improve air quality by encouraging the reduction of dependency on petroleum-based fuels and supporting the shift to cleaner fuels and technologies.

The group supports Pace’s plan to provide zero-emissions solutions for public transit to improve air quality and reduce harmful vehicle emissions, but notes that securing the funding necessary for the plan remains an ongoing concern.

“Pace’s pledge to develop zero-emissions infrastructure, technology, and vehicles is to be commended. We must recognize that there are significant costs involved, but they will pay off over time and better protect the region, as well as our country and planet.”

Learn more at il-act.org



Training for the Future

Lindsey works to ensure that Pace is responding to riders' and communities' rapidly changing mobility needs with innovative, sustainable services and technology.

She and her team are updating maintenance practices and operations to accommodate zero-emissions vehicles, and supporting the development of new infrastructure required to operate ZEB fleets. State-of-the-art facilities and practices will enable Pace to efficiently and effectively use zero-emission vehicles and technology throughout the region.

Pace's first BEB is now in service along 95th Street, providing critical information about operating ZEBs, and Lindsey looks forward to the many ways *Project Zero* will benefit riders.

“It’s exciting to see our coordination and teamwork – which are essential to this initiative’s success – rapidly advance as we continue to learn together.”



LINDSEY UMEK

Chief Operating Officer, Pace

“ Public transit is good for the environment, and Pace takes seriously our responsibility to do our best to support environmental health.”



SUSTAINABILITY TAKEAWAYS



Progress toward a **100% ZEB fleet** has been made with:

- The first BEB delivery in 2022
- Delivery of 22 additional BEBs for distribution across divisions in 2024
- The first BEB to begin operating service



Additionally, the **\$44M Pilot Bus Electrification Program** will enable Pace to:

- Track and evaluate key indicators of BEB performance to better understand their operations
- Refine assumptions for future vehicle procurement and transition implementation

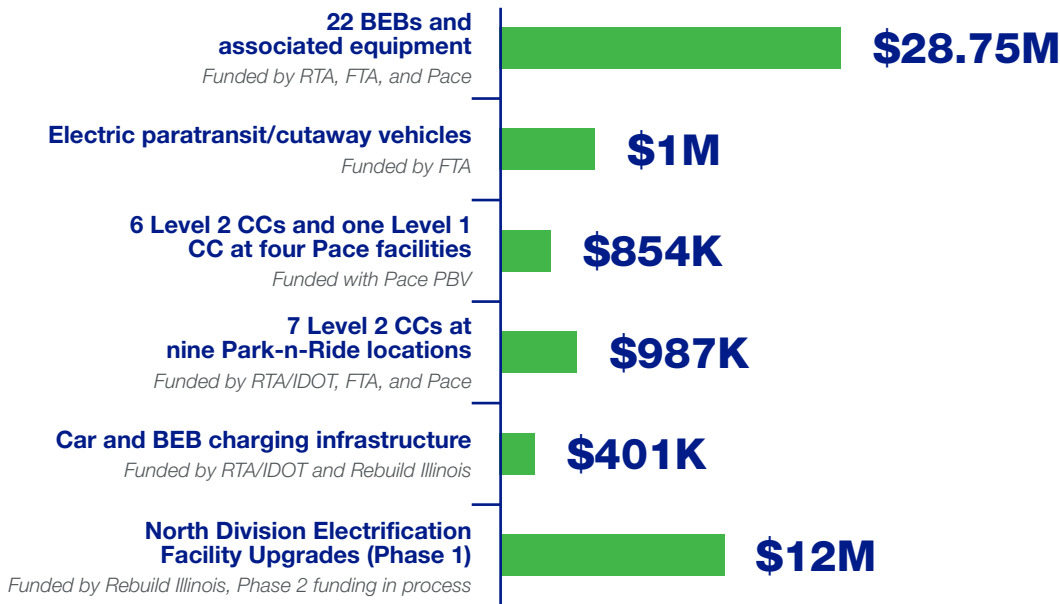


Funded through a combination of federal and state grant sources, Pace has also invested in these upgrades:

- Charging equipment
- Retrofitted infrastructure at the North Division facility and selected other facilities to accommodate operations and pilot fleet maintenance
- Workforce hiring and training on operations and maintenance of the new equipment

Funding That Matters


While Pace continues to seek additional funds to make *Project Zero* a reality, we are working with other regional transportation agencies to ensure the efficient, effective, and equitable use of current funding.



Gently Tear At Perforation



To learn more about *Project Zero*, Pace's Zero Emissions Commitment, visit pacebus.com/zero

An aerial photograph of a blue Pace bus on a city street. The bus is moving from the top left towards the bottom right. The street is lined with trees that have yellow and orange autumn leaves. The bus has the Pace logo and the number 17512 on its side. A large white quote is overlaid on the image.

“ Pace is developing Pulse routes for communities that deserve better transit, including along South Halsted and 95th Streets, which enable riders to leave their cars – and emissions – at home.”

— AUDREY WENNINK

Senior Director, Metropolitan Planning Council



Pace is an award-winning agency – most recently as a recipient of the **2024 Des Plaines Community Enhancement Award** for its work on the Pulse Dempster Line, an honor that garnered certificates of recognition from both the State of Illinois House of Representatives and Senate.



Chicago Metropolitan
Agency for Planning



American
Public Transportation
Association



PaceBus.com