



Moving into the Future

The Weekly Newsletter from America's Most Efficient Suburban Transit Agency

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Pace is the suburban public transit agency for Chicagoland's six-county metropolitan region. As the 6th largest bus agency in the U.S., Pace operates fixed bus routes, vanpools and paratransit services in nearly 250 municipalities consisting of 5.2 million residents. Visit the [Route Finder](#) for bus route information.

Public transit helps cure America's addiction to oil

It has been often said that taking public transportation, and [Pace](#) in particular, saves people thousands of dollars and reduces energy consumption. That anecdotal evidence was quantified in a report issued this month by the [American Public Transportation Association \(APTA\)](#), which cites that households who are likely to use transit save \$6,200 per year. Likewise, the nation as a whole uses 1.4 billion fewer gallons of gasoline annually than it would if there was no public transportation.

General ridership on public transit has increased more than 25 percent since 1995, according to William W. Millar, President of APTA. "Public transportation provides Americans with greater freedom, access, opportunity and choice. Americans knew instinctively that it saves money and gasoline. Now we know exactly how much," Millar said.

The 1.4 billion gallons of gas saved each year through use of transit is the equivalent of 108 million car owners filling a tank with gas--or 300,000 fill-ups per day.

Americans who use transit can essentially eat for free, as it was noted in the report that households usually spend less than \$5,800 on food items per year. In addition, the availability of public transit is absolutely irreplaceable for those who do not own an automobile or cannot drive and rely on transit as their means of getting around.



Greater use of transit means less cars on the roads and more money in the pocketbooks of everyday Americans.

Not only does public transportation save money, but it benefits the environment and relieves traffic congestion. "As we look to keep the

Illinois economy competitive, investment in public transit is necessary," said Pace Chairman Rick Kwasneski. "We will use the information in APTA's report to advocate for our [Moving Beyond Congestion](#) plan. Clearly, Pace saves time and money for commuters, and we hope to be able to do more in the future."

With the wealth of services that Pace offers, from [paratransit](#) to [special event shuttles](#) to [Metra](#) feeder routes to [fixed route buses](#), residents of northeastern Illinois not only save money but travel throughout the region safely and efficiently.

Transportation conference issues call for papers

The annual [Transport Chicago conference](#) is once again issuing a call for papers for its 2007 conference, to be held Friday, June 1, 2007 at the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago. The Transport Chicago Steering Committee seeks papers dealing with all aspects of transportation, including planning, public transit, freight, air, rail, and bicycle and pedestrian transportation. Papers are due March 12.

The Transport Chicago 2007 conference presents an excellent opportunity to share and hear nationally recognized transportation experts, discover current industry practices and meet with colleagues in the field. Topics submitted in prior years include: facility design, transportation funding, economic analysis, market research, [bus rapid transit \(BRT\)](#), [transit signal priority \(TSP\)](#), "smart bus" technology, transit oriented development (TOD) and sustainable development.

Papers chosen for presentation will be published on CD-ROM for conference attendees in addition to possibly being published on Transport Chicago's [web site](#). Paper presentation will occur in one of two separate forums: oral presentation before an audience or display at a "poster session." While the committee requests that each author indicate a preference, the committee retains final decision-making authority on forum assignment. Student papers are encouraged and will be eligible for prizes on day of conference. Interested parties should submit an abstract (maximum 250 words) for anonymous review by the Steering Committee. The Conference's Web site contains instructions on how to submit an abstract. Submitters will be notified by Thursday, March 29th of the status of their papers.

Ask Pace!

When will all of Pace's divisions use the new Pace buses, with blue livery and white logos? --R. Braylock, Sauk Village

Pace currently has 60 blue [NABI buses](#) which are assigned to two garages--[Pace West](#) and [Pace North Shore](#). The newest 30-foot buses currently being delivered are targeted for areas where a smaller, more nimble bus is more advantageous. The first 31 of these new blue [EIDorado buses](#) have been placed in service at [Pace Fox Valley](#) to serve the Aurora area. As more buses are delivered, they will replace vehicles that have reached the end of their useful service life (usually 12 years). Some of the areas that are due for bus replacements include Elmhurst, Des Plaines, McHenry and Naperville.

Generally, due to the federal requirement that buses stay in service for a minimum of 12 years, it will take between twelve to fifteen years for a "branding" change--such as Pace's new blue color--to be fully implemented and displayed on all of Pace's 657 buses.

Pace Factoid

Route 352 Halsted, Pace's most heavily used route, provides significant savings to the 6,500 daily riders.

"Moving into the Future" is a weekly newsletter provided by Pace Suburban Bus to update interested parties on the services Pace provides and the progress it makes to constantly improve. Forward to others as you wish. For best results, please print in landscape format. Please submit feedback or remove yourself from

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