



# Moving into the Future

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

Vol. IV, Number 138

[www.pacebus.com](http://www.pacebus.com)

June 7, 2011

*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 gives input to Pace at South Cook-Will County meetings**

[Pace Suburban Bus](#) is in the midst of holding public forums in South Cook County and Will County in order to show proposed changes in that part of the region and receive feedback as part of the [South Cook County-Will County Restructuring Initiative](#). Meetings have been held so far in Channahon, Riverdale and Calumet City where a total of approximately 80 people attended to voice their opinions on what they liked about the proposals and to suggest improvements. This is the second round of public forums; new material is being presented based on comments from residents and advisory committee members regarding the first set of route proposals that were presented at a round of public forums held in March.

Pace is continuing to work with residents in that region to find out how to best restructure service in a way that will be dependable, efficient and enables them to be well-connected throughout the service area. Patrick Wilmot, Pace External Relations Representative, said that "We've tried to hold the forums in a variety of locations and at different times of day in order to make them accessible for as many people as possible. If people can't attend a meeting, we encourage them to call us or to visit our website so that they can see the proposals and [send us their feedback](#)." Wilmot also said that "I think you may be interested to see that Pace is already implementing some of the recommendations of the state auditor general with these proposals with respect to service duplication with [CTA](#) and [Metra](#). The Initiative gives Pace an excellent opportunity to address those suggestions and couple them with input from our passengers on the best way to do it."



***Pace staff assist residents in reviewing proposed changes, answering questions and taking comments regarding improvements in the South Cook and Will County area.***

Michael Bolton, Deputy Executive Director for Strategic Services, has greatly appreciated having the meetings and being able to interact with residents and passengers that have been actively involved in this entire process. "The forums provide us with an opportunity to capture ideas and feelings that surveys and data analysis can never capture. The methodology of people writing their thoughts in their own words is important because it involves everyone. One person's thoughts very often generates a comment from someone else. This process validates a Pace maxim, statistics don't show up at public meetings, people do," Bolton said.

Ben Owen, Planning Services, has been very active with the meetings also with consultants for the project. He echoed the sentiment when he said, "The public was very involved in our March forums and this series of forums is off to an excellent start. We have received many good ideas throughout the restructuring process and I expect that this will continue."

In addition to working with communities, Pace has staff in Springfield working with state legislators making them aware

the various projects that will only be successful if adequate funding is provided to insure improvements. [The Moving Beyond Congestion campaign](#) is a plan that will allow for all the counties in the region to receive great benefits from the numerous transit initiatives that Pace and the other transit entities have for northeastern Illinois if financial support is made available. The campaign is aimed to help people understand that the transit agencies are dealing with limited resources and a growing set of needs for transportation regionally.

At this point the agency will continue to hold meetings throughout South Cook and Will County and make adjustments to the proposed changes based on the input received and hold a formal public hearing in August. Attendees who need a sign language interpreter, materials in another format or other accommodations, should contact Pace Customer Relations at (847) 364-7223 or (847) 364-5093 (TTY) no later than five business days in advance of the forum they wish to attend.

Pace Bus appreciates being able to interact with residents in South Cook and Will Counties in addition to other parts of the service area. These meetings allow for Pace staff to hear the concerns of passengers and become directly involved in the transit aspect of the lives of those who utilize Pace Suburban Bus as their transportation provider.

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## **Pace public forums in South Cook and Will Counties**

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### **PLAINFIELD**

Thursday, June 7 6:00-8:00pm  
Plainfield Village Hall  
24401 W. Lockport St.

### **BLUE ISLAND**

Saturday, June 9 9:30-11:30am  
Blue Island City Hall East Annex  
2434 W. Vermont St.  
*Accessible via Pace Routes 349 and 359.*

### **JOLIET**

Saturday, June 9 1:30-3:30pm  
Joliet Public Library  
150 N. Ottawa St.  
*Accessible via Pace Routes 501, 502, 505, 507 and 834.*

### **OAK LAWN**

Wednesday, June 13 6:00-8:00pm  
Oak Lawn Village Hall  
9446 S. Raymond Ave.  
*Accessible via Pace Routes 381 and 835 and Metra Southwest Service (Oak Lawn station).*

### **PALOS HEIGHTS**

Thursday, June 14 1:30-3:30pm  
Trinity Christian College (Martin and Janet Ozinga Chapel)  
6601 W. College Dr.  
*Accessible via Pace Route 384.*

### **UNIVERSITY PARK**

Thursday, June 14 6:00-8:00pm  
University Park Village Hall  
698 Burnham Dr.  
*Accessible via Pace Route 367.*

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"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

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