



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 13th 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.

Fifty years ago today, Rosa Parks became history's most famous bus rider

On December 1, 1955, a black seamstress boarded the Cleveland Avenue bus in Montgomery, Alabama. When a white man boarded a short time later, the woman was asked to give up her seat, in accordance with segregation laws of the time. She refused. She was arrested and fined \$10, plus \$4 in court costs.

That moment sparked the 13-month Montgomery bus boycott and turned Rosa Parks into the "mother of the civil rights movement."

On that day, fifty years ago in Montgomery, Rosa Parks reminded America what those in the



A decal bearing this image appears today on one seat on each Pace bus, honoring the 50th anniversary of the Montgomery bus boycott.

public transportation industry see every day: bus passengers can be heroes.

While the civil rights movement changed much about race relations in the United States, today's 50th anniversary of the Montgomery bus boycott serves as a reminder that there is still progress to be made. In that spirit, and to honor the dignified, unassuming protest of Rosa Parks, Pace is commemorating the day with a series of activities that its passengers can witness today.

Pace's Transit Televisions are showing a short video about Rosa Parks and her historical protest in the name of equality. The video runs 15 seconds and is shown once per hour today on all Pace buses equipped with the Transit Televisions.

One seat on each bus is being left vacant today in honor of Rosa Park's refusal to give up her seat fifty years ago. A black decal is placed on the designated seat. Passengers are asked to comply voluntarily with this show of respect.

This week, every Pace bus also has an interior display (called a "car card") which contains a picture of Rosa Parks and the words "Saluting Rosa Parks, 1913-2005". Many other transit agencies throughout the nation are planning similar commemorations. Also today, President Bush will mark the anniversary by signing [H.R. 4145](#), a bill to honor Parks with a statue in the United States Capitol. The bill was offered by Congressman Jesse Jackson, Jr. of Illinois.

Rosa Parks died on October 24, just 6 weeks ago. She was 92. The November 3 edition of *Moving into the Future* memorialized her passing and the corresponding events which took place in Montgomery, Washington, DC and Detroit, her hometown for much of the past 50 years.

On Monday, Pace South Division Manager Cedric Wright will be in Montgomery to attend a [workshop](#) sponsored by the [Conference of Minority Transit Officials](#) and the [Federal Transit Administration](#) commemorating the 50th anniversary. The group will discuss the progress of civil rights in America, especially as it concerns the transit officials. Wright said, "All you have to do to measure the progress of civil rights is look around at this agency. My dad, who grew up in the South, had to ride on the back of the bus. Now I'm managing a bus division." COMTO workshop attendees will also go on a tour of the Rosa Parks Museum and ride a historical bus on the same route Ms. Parks took from her work to home.

In recent years, Parks has received significant recognition for her act of defiance. She was

awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1996 and the Congressional Gold Medal in 1999. She was also the recipient of the [American Public Transportation Association's](#) Lifetime Achievement Award in 1997.

The Montgomery bus boycott lasted until December 21, 1956. A month prior, the U.S. Supreme Court had ruled that segregation on public transportation was unconstitutional in *Browder v. Gayle*. The 381-day boycott highlighted further the importance of the public transit system to the residents of Montgomery. Most of the 40,000 boycotters had to find carpools, use taxicabs or walk to work. The public transit system is truly a community's economic engine, allowing people of all incomes, races, genders and mobility levels to participate in society.



All Pace buses will display this poster on December 1st in honor of Rosa Parks.

Pace's Web site also commemorates today's 50th anniversary of Rosa Park's brave moment and the onset of the Montgomery bus boycott.

In deference to Rosa Park's insistence that she was not a hero and her refusal to seek the limelight, Pace did not plan any major press conferences or speeches today. Mrs. Parks was a woman of quiet dignity, and it is in that spirit that the Board and the employees of Pace Suburban Bus take the time today to quietly remember her contribution to racial equality in America from her seat on the bus in Montgomery fifty years ago.

New Pace bus route serves 138th Street in Riverdale

Beginning yesterday, resulting from the urging of many area residents and elected officials, Pace began operations of a new bus route: [Route 348 138th Street--Riverdale Connector](#). It serves 138th Street between Indiana and Halsted and Halsted Street between 138th and 127th Streets.

Due to railroad viaduct work on 130th Street and Indiana Avenue, [Pace Route 353](#) had been [detoured](#) from Indiana to Halsted Street via 138th Street since August 1, 2005. Pace had previously received requests to implement bus service on 138th Street, so for many the change was welcome. Pace management was even encouraged not to remove service from 138th Street after the construction period. During the detour, however, they learned that a significant number of bus passengers along Indiana Avenue were inconvenienced by the detour and it had a substantial negative impact on Route 353's on-time performance.

In response, Pace analyzed ridership data and determined that both corridors generate sufficient ridership to warrant bus service. Beginning November 30, 2005, Route 353 has resumed operations on Indiana Avenue, and the new Route 348 is in place on those streets on which Route 353 had been detoured. Service levels on Route 348 will be reviewed in the coming year as part of the South Cook/Will County Initiative.

Pace wishes to thank Board Member Terry Wells, Riverdale Village President Zenovia Evans, State Representatives David Miller and Will

Davis, State Senator James Meeks, Cook County Commissioner Deborah Sims, Chicago Alderman Anthony Beale and Congressman Jesse Jackson, Jr. for their advocacy on behalf of their constituents that reinforced the need for this service.

"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. Please submit feedback or remove yourself from the mailing list by calling 847-228-2421 or e-mail your request to govt.affairs@pacebus.com.

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