

Pace I-90 Market Expansion Project Includes Short- and Long-Term Improvements to Express Bus Service



New vehicles intended for use on I-90.

Pace's I-90 Market Expansion Project is a long-term, comprehensive solution to ease the region's growing congestion and air quality concerns. The project's new and expanded bus routes will travel along I-90, the Jane Addams Memorial Tollway, between Elgin and Rosemont. The project will improve connections, reliability, and travel options for both traditional and reverse commuters.

The project has been identified for \$38 million in federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality funding. This includes the cost of building Park-

n-Ride facilities and the purchase of new buses and other vehicles. Long-term operations and the maintenance of vehicles and transit facilities will be funded by Pace.

To improve mobility and transit alternatives along the I-90 corridor, Pace is partnering with the Illinois Tollway, Regional Transit Authority, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning and IDOT. In addition, Pace is reaching out to communities along the corridor as service plans and facility designs continue to be refined.

The main service changes

for Phase I of this project will be implemented August 19th, 2013, on Routes 600 Northwest Express and 610 River Road-Prairie Stone Express. Route 600 will become bidirectional, offering new express trips from Rosemont to Schaumburg, and will have more service with trips running every 20 minutes during rush hour.

Route 610 will become bidirectional, offering new express trips during peak times and serving a new, temporary Park-n-Ride at Sears Centre in Prairie Stone. Commuters can park their vehicles for free at the Sears Centre Park-n-Ride, located in Lot C, and board Route 610 for express service to the CTABlue Line Rosemont Station. With these expanded services, Pace hopes to alleviate stress on the region's drivers as construction delays increase

on the Jane Addams.

Routes 606 and 895 will also have improved service. Route 606 will have schedule changes, additional trips and improved, on-time performance as a result of these changes. Select Route 895 trips will be adjusted to provide coordinated service with the new Route 600 schedule between Rosemont and Schaumburg.

In 2016, Pace will again increase service on routes 600 and 610, serve three new, permanent Park-n-Ride locations with four additional express bus routes, and operate three new reservation-based routes open to the general public (Call-n-Rides) to connect passengers to major employment centers.

More information about the service expansion project is available at PaceBus.com.

WebWatch is Now Pace Bus Tracker

WebWatch, Pace's real-time bus arrival and departure prediction web application, has a new name to go along with the facelift and software improvements that occurred during 2012 and earlier this year. Now dubbed Pace Bus

Tracker, the application performs all of the same functions but has a more descriptive name.

Pace Bus Tracker uses GPS technology and data from the Intelligent Bus System — which

monitors vehicle locations — to make predictions. Features include indicating the locations of buses along a route on a Google or Bing map and the ability to receive automated predictions sent by the system via e-mail. Try it today!

Ventra™ Set to Launch in August; Available for All in September

Modern, Convenient Fare-Payment System Coming Soon to CTA, Pace Customers



Select CTA and Pace customers will begin using the new Ventra™ fare-payment system, which allows customers to use a single fare card for transit throughout the Chicago region, in August 2013,

with a full public rollout following a few weeks later in September.

Ventra—which replaces CTA and Pace’s existing, nearly 20-year-old fare-payment system—offers transit customers the convenience and flexibility of a modern fare-payment system, including faster boarding, account management and value protection. With Ventra, customers can use a Ventra Card, Ventra Ticket or their own contactless bankcard to pay for CTA and Pace rides by loading transit value and passes.

A simple “tap” of a contactless card

will allow customers to quickly board CTA buses and trains as well as Pace buses. Ventra has no fees for daily transit use and CTA and Pace fares will remain the same. Cash will still be accepted on buses.

“Ventra modernizes our fare collection system by incorporating the latest industry technology to provide convenience and ease of use for our customers,” said Pace Executive Director T.J. Ross. “The expanded network of places to get Ventra products and load value definitely benefits Pace riders.”

Upon launch, Ventra will be the nation’s largest transit open fare-payment system, and will eventually include a network of points of sale with more than three times the current number in the region, expected at around 2,000.

WHAT TO EXPECT: August 2013

- Ventra launches for the first targeted group of users, including Chicago Card Plus and registered Chicago

Card users and students at schools participating in the U-Pass program.

September 2013

- All CTA customers and Pace fixed route bus customers are able to use Ventra.

- Customers can obtain Ventra Cards, begin purchasing products and/or purchasing stored value at all CTA rail stations where vending machines are installed, online, by phone, at hundreds of neighborhood retailers and the Ventra customer service center.

- Both Ventra and the existing fare systems will run in parallel, and CTA and Pace will accept both old and new fare media. Customers are encouraged to use their old fare media as soon as possible, including spending down the balances on stored-value cards.

Learn more about Ventra at ventrachicago.com. Customers can also interact with Ventra via Twitter (@VentraChicago) and on Ventra Chicago’s Facebook page. Information is also available on CTA and Pace websites at www.transitchicago.com and PaceBus.com.

Student Haul Pass and Campus Connection

Beginning August 1, 2013, high school and younger students will be able to purchase the September Student Haul Pass, which will be valid August 19 — September, 30, 2013.

The monthly Student Haul Pass provides unlimited rides on Pace to high school and younger students for only \$30. The pass is valid on regular Pace fixed route buses and Pace Call-n-Ride services. Some Pace bus routes have special trips designed to serve schools at the beginning and end of the school day.

Students can pay cash and receive a reduced fare, but that particular discount is available on weekdays between 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., and

only for travel to and from school. However, the Student Haul Pass offers students this great value all day, every day, regardless of trip purpose.

Starting in October, high school and younger students will be able to purchase and load a Pace Commuter Club 30-Day Reduced Pass to a Ventra Card OR purchase a Pace Student Haul Pass. Either pass is \$30. For information, visit PaceBus.com or call 847-364-PACE (7223). To learn more about Ventra, please visit ventrachicago.com.

Pace’s Campus Connection Pass alleviates the cost of transportation for college students while enabling them to get to work, school or home

by utilizing any of our fixed route services. Because it offers unlimited rides on Pace fixed route service — including on weekends and holidays — the Campus Connection pass allows students the freedom they want with the reliability they need.

Instead of purchasing 30-Day passes or paying cash, the semester-long Campus Connection Pass costs only \$175.00 and is valid from August 1 through December 31, and January 1 through May 31. Students purchasing the pass later in the semester will pay a prorated price for the pass and can still take advantage of cost savings over driving. Passes can be purchased at many suburban colleges and universities, and at PaceBus.com.