



SEPTEMBER 2022

ONBOARD

with  pace Suburban Bus



Melinda J. Metzger
Executive Director

I hope our riders had a safe and enjoyable summer. Pace has certainly been busy—projects we’re working on and the new services we are piloting. I thank you for your continued ridership throughout the pandemic and for your support as we build a better transportation system.

Safety is always Pace’s top priority, but it has been on my mind more than ever this summer. All summer long, our roads have become more dangerous due to reckless drivers, Covid continues to spread, and sadly, gun violence continues to devastate our community. My heart breaks for the

victims of these tragedies.

Pace is an exceptionally safe service, and we can all play a role in keeping it that way. Please be careful walking to and from your bus stop. Stay home if you feel sick. Be courteous to your operators and fellow passengers. And remember: If you see something, say something. Report suspicious activity to your operator or, in the event of an emergency, to 9-1-1.

Thank you again for riding and for helping keep Pace safe for everyone.

This newsletter highlights just a few of the projects Pace has undertaken during this busy year. I am so proud of what we’ve been able to accomplish, and so excited for what’s to come. But these successes would not have been possible without help; I want to thank our partners for all they have helped Pace achieve.

Last spring, we partnered with Olive-Harvey College in Chicago to create a program to help future Pace operators get their CDL permits and address our labor shortage. I am pleased to announce a similar program will be coming to Harper College in Palatine soon. The Village of Plainfield and State of Illinois made our new Plainfield Garage a reality—buses are moving in this fall—with help from leaders across Will County. The State has also joined several municipalities along Dempster Street to pave the way for our next Pulse Line, which will

connect Evanston and O’Hare next year. Our new Regional Connect Pass, which allows Metra monthly pass holders to seamlessly transfer to Pace and CTA services, is the result of collaboration between all transit service boards in Northeast Illinois. I’m particularly excited about the \$20 million federal RAISE grant we received which, when combined with funding from the State and from Metra, will allow us to completely reconstruct Pace’s busiest facility, the Harvey Transportation Center. This modern transit hub will serve as an economic engine for Harvey’s downtown and improve the lives of thousands of riders and residents of the south suburbs.

Thank you for supporting Pace. Good things happen when we all work together!



Richard A. Kwasneski
Chairman

We’re Hiring!
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847-364-PACE
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Thank You For Riding!

Your safety is Pace's top priority. Have you seen a 'Million Miler' patch on your driver's shoulder? Those dedicated Pace employees have a perfect safety record for at least twelve years. There's no safer way to travel in Chicagoland!

'If you see something, say something.'



Local Officials Celebrate New Bus Garage in Plainfield



Ribbon cutting at the new Plainfield Garage



Plainfield Garage

On July 21, Pace cut the ribbon on the new Plainfield Garage. Officials and staff from federal, state, county, and local offices attended the event and were impressed by what they saw: a state-of-the-art facility that will soon operate state-of-the-art service.

The \$52 million facility is built on an 11.92-acre site provided by the Village of Plainfield, adjacent to the Plainfield Park-n-Ride. It was funded by Pace using resources from the State's Rebuild Illinois Capital Program. This forward-thinking investment is another example of economic growth and innovation Pace is bringing to our communities.

This facility will allow for the expansion of Pace's Bus on Shoulder Express Service and create space for additional vehicles needed to operate the popular service which takes commuters from various south region park-n-rides to downtown Chicago using the shoulder on I-55 to bypass congestion. Pre-pandemic, ridership on the service grew over 600% since the implementation of shoulder use in 2011. The service is again seeing full parking lots and buses as riders return.

"In 2011, the State of Illinois passed forward-thinking legislation that allowed us to start our Bus on Shoulder Express Service. This service sails past traffic, offering direct routes with trip times that are often faster than driving. That is public transportation at its finest," said RTA Chairman Kirk Dillard. "Bus on Shoulder passengers can transfer to CTA and Metra to get from the southwest suburbs to virtually anywhere in Chicagoland. The RTA is proud to support this investment, which benefits the entire region."

Lower prices on Pace/CTA 7-Day and 30-Day passes are now permanent

On June 15, the Pace Board of Directors voted to permanently adopt the Pace/CTA 7-Day and 30-Day passes at the rates that were implemented in November 2021 by the CTA. See chart below for details:

Fare Type	Current Price
7-Day CTA/Pace Pass	\$25
30-Day CTA/Pace Pass	\$75
30-Day CTA/Pace Reduced Fare Pass	\$35

Learn more at VentraChicago.com/RCPass



Additionally, to encourage the use of transit services provided by Pace, Metra, and the CTA, the three transit providers are proud to introduce the **NEW Regional Connect Pass (RCP)**, which replaces the Metra Link-Up Pass and the Pace PlusBus Pass as of July 1, 2022.

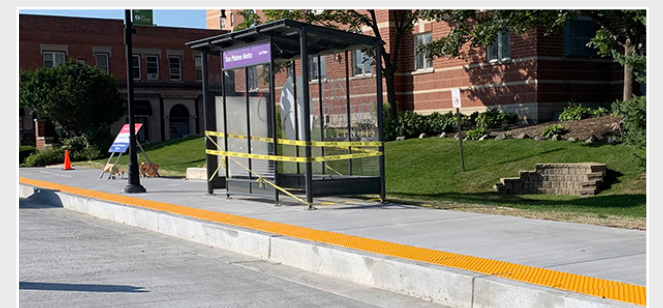
Pace Harvey Transportation Center Reconstruction Project Awarded \$20 Million USDOT RAISE Grant

The US Department of Transportation (USDOT) recently announced the award of a \$20 million Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) discretionary grant to fund the Harvey Transportation Center reconstruction project in Harvey, IL. Once complete, it will offer a significant upgrade for public transit riders in the south suburbs. The project is a partnership between Pace, Metra, and the City of Harvey and is funded in part by Rebuild Illinois.

The existing Pace Harvey Transportation Center handles more Pace bus boardings than any other single location in the six-county northeastern Illinois region, so it is critical that these thousands of daily riders are provided a modern and comfortable facility. The funding will be used to improve the bus passenger waiting area and rebuild it adjacent to the Harvey Metra Electric station which will also undergo major improvements. The project will ensure safer and easier transfers between Pace buses and Metra trains, will offer many rider amenities and will be accessible to people with disabilities with a dedicated area for ADA Paratransit vehicles.

Pulse Dempster Line Under Construction

Work on the line continues, with three station platforms already complete and four more underway. Below, you can see snow melt cable being installed at the westbound Des Plaines Metra Station's future Pulse Station platform. All Pulse stations will feature raised platforms with heated pavement. The first transit shelters have now been delivered and are being installed.



Naperville- Aurora On Demand Zone Expanded



On Monday, June 6, Pace launched a pilot service expansion of the Pace Naperville-Aurora On Demand service. The current service zone doubled, expanding east to serve more of the Naperville area. The area will extend the eastern boundary to Naper Boulevard, bounded on the north by Ferry Road and Warrenville Road and on the south by Gartner Road and Ogden Avenue.

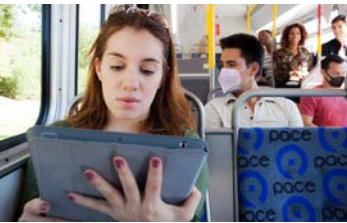
Some popular destinations in the new zone include:

- Downtown Naperville and the Riverwalk
- North Central College
- Corporate Campuses including BP, Nokia, and BMO Harris
- Edward Hospital

New and Updated Bus Routes

On August 7 and 8, several service changes took effect:

- There were changes to trips that operate on school days only for some routes to align with school schedules and anticipated demand.
- **Route 565** saw routing changes to serve a new College of Lake County facility.
- Weekend service on Pulse Milwaukee line was optimized to take advantage of transit signal priority (TSP) in the corridor. As a reminder, this technology allows buses to interface with traffic lights to extend green lights or shorten red lights to better keep on schedule.
- **NEW Pace Route 697** began service on August 8. This new bus route provides weekday bus service from Pace's Northwest Transportation Center in Schaumburg to Harper College in Palatine, operates every 40 minutes and will serve the following major destinations: Pace's Northwest Transportation Center, Woodfield Mall, Woodfield Village Green, Costco, Renaissance Schaumburg Hotel, Schaumburg Convention Center, Zurich Insurance, and Harper College.



Pace provided free bus rides to all students on August 22. However, the first day of school isn't the only day that students can get to school safely and affordably. For the rest of the school year, students can get discounted rides by buying the Pace 30-Day Reduced Fare Pass for \$30 (unlimited rides all day, every day, regardless of trip purpose and without school-hour restrictions, for 30 days), or paying with transit value on their Student Ventra Card for a reduced fare of \$1.00.

VanGo: the new vanpool option from Pace!



On June 1, Pace launched VanGo which is a reservation-based vanpool service option. Commuters traveling from Metra stations in Deerfield or Lake Forest to nearby workplaces can now use a new self-service transportation option. No monthly commitment... just reserve a ride on days you need it!

Passengers can book online or call to reserve their trip at least one day in advance or on Fridays for the weekend and Monday. Reservations for the next day can be made between the hours of 8:00 am and 4:30 pm. Service will be available between 6:00 am and 9:00 pm, with trips starting and ending in a designated service area. Drivers must be at least 23 years old; have a valid driver's license; a good driving record; and must pass a physical, drug test, and online training class to be eligible. Visit PaceBus.com/vango for more information.



What do you think?

Pace works hard to provide a safe and efficient transportation system for our customers. Let us know if you have any questions or comments to help us make your ride more enjoyable.

847-364-PACE
PaceBus.com
Passenger.Services@PaceBus.com



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