

# CHICAGO ADA NEWS

## with Pace Suburban Bus

### Local, State, and Federal Officials Celebrate \$20 Million RAISE Grant for Pace Harvey Transportation Center

Improved accessibility for people with disabilities among the planned enhancements

Officials from Pace, Metra, and local, state, and federal government gathered recently to celebrate 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, the new multimodal facility 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.

“Pace is honored to be recognized with this grant and for the opportunity it gives us, Metra, the City of Harvey, the State of Illinois, and the people we serve,” said Pace Chairman Rick Kwasneski. “It represents equity and access to opportunity for all. More people board Pace buses right here than any other location in our region, so this project provides benefits for thousands of daily riders getting to jobs throughout northeastern Illinois.”

The improved Pace transit center benefits some of Illinois’ most historically disadvantaged communities and thus meets the standard in the Biden Administration’s Justice40 Initiative. The project reflects an intentionally inclusive economic investment through both the creation of new construction jobs and a vastly improved facility.

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



*(L-R) Illinois State Representative Will Davis, Pace Director & President of the Village of Phoenix Terry R. Wells; Illinois State Senator Napoleon Harris III; Congresswoman Robin Kelly; Pace Executive Director Melinda Metzger; Harvey Mayor Christopher J. Clark; Pace Chairman Rick Kwasneski; Metra Deputy Executive Director Janice R. Thomas; RTA Chairman Kirk Dillard; Metra Chair Romayne Brown; and Superintendent of the Cook County Department of Transportation & Highways, Jennifer ‘Sis’ Killen.*

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.

The Metra portion of the project will include the rehabilitation of its Harvey Station to better integrate the station to Pace’s facility. The improvements will include a new station entrance, and waiting areas, an expanded platform, new parking, new lighting, and signs.

The Harvey Transportation Center reconstruction project is scheduled to break ground in late 2024. Passengers will continue to be able to access transit services during the construction, although detours and alternative boarding locations may be in effect. Capital improvements are a top priority for Pace. Learn more about Pace’s future plans in their strategic vision plan, Driving Innovation: [www.PaceBus.com/driving-innovation](http://www.PaceBus.com/driving-innovation).



Message from the Chicago ADA Advisory Committee Chairman:

Please do your part as a rider and continue to be safe by choosing to wear a mask when riding public transportation.

To help keep the service on time please be on the lookout and ready for your ride. Make sure to keep your sidewalks, walkways and steps clear of snow.

Your opinion matters!

*Kerry Moore*

**Chairman, Chicago  
ADA Advisory Committee**



### Pulse Dempster Line progress continues

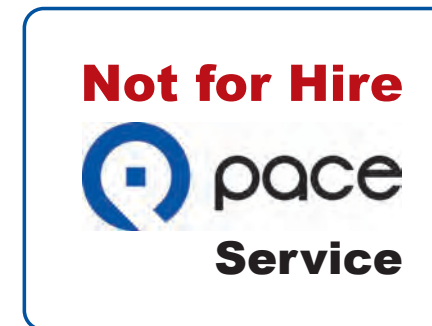
Pace is building a rapid transit project--the Pulse Dempster Line--along Dempster Street between Evanston and O'Hare Airport. This fall, station construction continues, with installation of the first "vertical marker" pylon completed at the Westbound Des Plaines Metra Station. Raised boarding platforms have been completed at 10 locations, with construction of one additional platform as well as installation of electrical cabinets, railings, benches, bicycle racks, and trash receptacles scheduled for completion in December. Underground utility work at the remaining stations is expected to continue into January 2023 in preparation for the resumption of platform construction in early spring. Every Pulse station will be ADA accessible.

## New service provider now providing some Pace ADA Paratransit rides!

A service provider called UZURV (pronounced "you-serve") is now providing trips as part of Pace's family of paratransit services. Pace is making this additional option available to be able to provide as many rides as possible and in a timely fashion.

When you make a reservation for your ADA Paratransit ride you will be asked if you would accept a ride from a taxi or a UZURV vehicle, in addition to our Pace ADA Paratransit buses.

To help you identify the vehicle, taxi and UZURV vehicles will display the placard with the Pace logo in their window, as shown here:



Be sure to confirm the driver is picking you up for your ride before getting into a taxi or UZURV vehicle.

If a UZURV vehicle picks you up, it will also have the UZURV logo displayed as well, as shown here:



### Please note:

If you agree to be picked up by a taxi or UZURV vehicle, you will need to look for taxi, UZURV vehicle, or ADA Paratransit bus, as we cannot confirm the vehicle type at the time of booking.

If you DO NOT want to ride with a taxi or UZURV vehicle, please provide that information when you are making your reservation. You can have that information added to your profile, in which case you will only be picked up in a Pace ADA Paratransit bus.



### Safety is always Pace's top Priority

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 for riding and for helping keep Pace safe for everyone!**

**To directly receive new information about your paratransit service, please sign up for email alerts at [www.PaceBus.com](http://www.PaceBus.com).**

## Taxi Access Program (TAP) Update

Pace's Taxi Access Program (TAP) allows ADA Paratransit eligible riders immediate access to a Chicago taxi to meet their transportation needs, as an alternative to riding ADA Paratransit. To use TAP, you must be [certified for ADA Paratransit](#) by the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) and you must have an active TAP card to purchase TAP rides.

TAP can be a great way to travel for last-minute plans. Unlike ADA paratransit, there's no need to reserve a trip a day in advance. You can call or hail a taxi at your convenience. For a list of taxi providers, please call 311.

Passengers can request a wheelchair-accessible (WAV) taxicab ride in Chicago by calling the City of Chicago's centralized WAV taxi dispatch service at [888-WAV-CABS](#) (1-888-928-2227). Note: TAP card cannot be used when booking trips through any mobile taxi app.

Taxicab drivers are independent contractors and do not work for Pace nor the City of Chicago. For general questions and concerns about TAP, call Pace at [800-606-1282](#), option 4. To report an issue with a taxicab, call the City of Chicago at 311.

### FARE CHANGE UPDATE:

**As part of the 2023 budget approval, Pace is ending the Taxi Access Program (TAP) and DuPage Uber Access Program fare waivers. For both programs, Pace will institute a temporary TAP fare reduction from \$3 to \$2, effective February 2023.**

## Zero Emissions Update



Earlier this year, Pace leased a 40' Gillig low floor battery electric bus to allow staff to begin gaining operational and maintenance experience. The Board approved the purchase of that vehicle which was delivered in November, and the operations will start in December on 95th Street. Pace's strategic vision plan, Driving Innovation, includes operating a zero-emission fleet by 2040. As the demand for electric buses far outweighs the supply, it is critical that Pace capitalize on opportunities to secure electric buses and maintain progress on the path to zero-emissions. This purchase will allow continued operational and maintenance analysis, providing valuable insight about vehicle performance during the winter months.

We have taken a few more steps as we continue to plan our transition to a zero-emission fleet: A Proterra Battery-Electric Bus charger was installed at the new Plainfield garage, and we have begun researching the installation of electric vehicle infrastructure at our South Campus.

Pace staff and contractors are developing "30% plans" (plans establishing major design elements) for River, North, and Wheeling incorporating electric vehicle infrastructure. Our team also completed a comprehensive review of Pace vehicle blocking and collaborated with Service Planning and Operations; this analysis allows for us to plan for future fleet and facility requirements.

## PACE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Richard A. Kwasneski**  
Chairman

**Rachel Arfa**  
City of Chicago

**Christopher S. Canning**  
North Shore Suburban Cook County

**Terrance Carr**  
Central Suburban Cook County

**David B. Guerin**  
North Central Suburban Cook County

**Kyle R. Hastings**  
Southwest Suburban Cook County

**Thomas D. Marcucci**  
DuPage County

**William D. McLeod**  
Northwest Suburban Cook County

**John D. Noak**  
Will County

**Jeffery D. Schielke**  
Kane County

**Erin Smith**  
McHenry County

**Linda Soto**  
Lake County

**Terry R. Wells**  
South Suburban Cook County

**Melinda J. Metzger**  
Executive Director

