

SUMMER 2023

SUBURBAN ADA NEWS

with Pace Suburban Bus



Community Project Funding for electric buses supports Pace's Project Zero initiative



Pace expresses our appreciation to the congressional sponsors of FY23 Community Project Funding—including Congressman Sean Casten, who secured a grant for five electric paratransit buses for Pace's River Division in Elgin. These new vehicles will help Pace expedite our transition to a zero-emission fleet while reducing pollution in the Elgin area.

Pace, through our Project Zero initiative, is committed to converting its entire fleet to a zero-emission fleet by 2040. This is an ambitious and significant investment which includes the upgrading of infrastructure at

11 bus garages. Pace is incredibly grateful for the funding provided by Congressmen Casten and Brad Schneider, as well as the federal funding for other Pace improvements sponsored by Congressman Bill Foster, Congressman Chuy Garcia, and former Congresswoman Marie Newman.

Pace was honored to host both Congressman Casten and Congressman Schneider to celebrate those funding awards. The \$1.92 million in Federal funding provided by Congressman Schneider will provide two electric buses to be used at North Division as the agency moves towards a zero-emission fleet. Pace's North Division in Waukegan will be the first Pace garage to be fully converted to a zero-emission fleet. On April 19, Pace was honored with the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) Regional Resilience Award for the agency's **Project Zero** initiative.



Electric Vehicles are Coming!

Project Zero is underway! Pace is in the process of buying equipment that will enable us to charge electric buses at North Division. In addition, thanks to a recent upgrade, our first electric bus can now be charged at our newest garage in Plainfield! This is the first permanent charging equipment to be wired into one of our Divisions. Pace is also awarded a contract for a project that will add electric car charging stations (and related electrical system upgrades) at eight passenger facilities as well as our corporate headquarters. Construction is projected to start later this year and be completed by early 2024.





Message from the Suburban ADA Advisory Committee Chairman:

As winter transitions to Spring, I hope people continue to take advantage of the opportunity of using Pace service for their everyday needs. As for the recent municipal and local elections, I hope everyone did their part and participated by getting out and voting as well as engaged with their local representatives on the importance of funding public transportation. I also want to encourage anyone who is interested on serving on the Suburban ADA Advisory Committee, to please apply and submit an application.

Jemal Powell

Chairman, Suburban
ADA Advisory Committee

Pace is looking to fill vacancies on the Suburban ADA Advisory Committee

Are you or someone you know interested in serving on our Suburban ADA Advisory Committee?

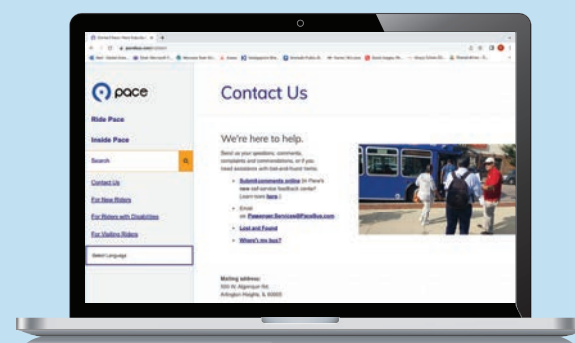
Pace is seeking representatives from agencies, businesses, and not-for-profit entities who serve individuals with disabilities and/or persons who are ADA Paratransit eligible or certified, to serve on our Suburban ADA Advisory Committee. In particular, representatives/individuals that work/live in McHenry, Kane, Central, and South Cook counties are encouraged to apply.

If interested, please visit:

[PaceBus.com/ada-advisory-committees](https://www.pacebus.com/ada-advisory-committees) page, and fill out an ADA Advisory Committee member application.

Use our self-service Feedback Center to submit comments online!

With the new self-service Feedback Center, you can ask a question or submit a complaint without needing to call in and speak to a Pace representative live. Not only can this process be much quicker for you, but it is available 24 hours/day. You can find the self-service tool by visiting: [PaceBus.com/contact](https://www.pacebus.com/contact).



DuPage Uber Access Program ADA Fare/Co-Pay Reinstated on April 15

Since the DuPage Uber Access program began in January 2022, Pace has waived the fare/co-pay of \$3.25. The fare/co-pay waiver ends on April 15, 2023, and a fare/co-pay is reinstated at \$2.00.

Your Uber account payment method on file is charged \$2.00 per ride and Pace will subsidize your Uber trips up to \$30.00 thereafter. Riders are still responsible for any Uber fare amount over \$30.

Please note that DuPage Uber Access is an option beyond ADA Paratransit services. The DuPage Uber Access program is more affordable (\$2) than Pace's ADA Paratransit service (\$3.25). Plus, DuPage Uber Access is often more convenient than ADA Paratransit since rides do not have to be scheduled a day in advance. If you haven't yet signed up to take advantage of these savings and convenience, please do so at [www.PaceBus.com/DuPage-Uber](https://www.pacebus.com/DuPage-Uber).



Prioritizing accessibility and innovation

Recently the Pace Board approved an award for a seven-year contract to SCR Transportation, a firm with over 30 years as a service provider in the region. SCR will begin to provide paratransit service in DuPage and Kane Counties on June 24, 2023. There will be no interruption in your service, and reservation phone numbers remain the same. In addition to paratransit services Pace provides fixed route bus service, including the innovative Bus on Shoulder program, Pulse bus rapid transit, and 10 On Demand services in the region. Pace also subsidizes Uber trips to provide non-traditional options to ADA Paratransit customers.

Pace Connect coming June 27!

The Pace Board awarded an 18-month contract for Pace Connect, a new TNC rideshare program, to Via. Pace Connect uses accessible vehicles to pick riders up in two areas. One Pace Connect zone will serve workers commuting from the CTA Blue Line to cargo areas at the south end of O'Hare Airport. The other will serve an area surrounding Pace's Harvey Transportation Center bounded by 144th St., I-94, I-294, and I-57.

While both areas are already served by Pace fixed routes, these pilots offer first-/last-mile service and operate throughout nighttime and early morning hours when regular service is limited. The pilots will help Pace determine whether it is suitable, cost-effective, and efficient to incorporate this service type into Pace's family of services. The contract includes six months for planning and a year of service. This project is in partnership with Cook County and RTA.

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 boarding location. 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!

Pace Awarded CMAP Regional Resilience Award for Project Zero

Award presented as Pace Board of Directors approves electric car charging infrastructure at nine locations

On April 19, Pace was honored with the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) Regional Resilience Award for the agency's **Project Zero** initiative. CMAP Executive Director Erin Aleman presented the award to Pace at the agency's April 2023 Board of Directors meeting. Project Zero is Pace's commitment to operating a zero-emission fleet by 2040.

"Project Zero was a major step forward that we all took together," said Pace Executive Director Melinda Metzger. She also noted that "Pace's **North Division** in Waukegan will be the first garage to be converted to a fully electric fleet. This decision was based on environmental concerns and our ongoing work to create an innovative, equitable, and efficient transportation

network for those we serve. Electrification will make an impact in the Waukegan area where a high percentage of riders are low-income, minorities, or from otherwise underserved groups."

Project Zero began with the delivery of Pace's first electric bus in 2022 and the completion of the agency's **fleet transition plan**. Twenty more buses are scheduled for delivery later this year as Pace develops its facility transition plan and begins work on a network revitalization plan.



New facility under construction in Markham

We're installing metal roof decking at the Acceptance Facility and a roofing system, underground electrical, and plumbing at the Office Building. The new building will house Pace's Customer Relations Department in a modern office space that will enhance their ability to efficiently respond to your needs.



STAY INFORMED

Passengers are encouraged to sign up for text or email alerts at PaceBus.com. Also, follow us on social media for up-to-date information.



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