

SPRING 2025

ONBOARD



Pace is Delivering the Future of Transit

2025 is shaping up to be a transformative year for Pace, with key projects that will enhance service, improve sustainability, and better connect our communities. Thanks to the invaluable feedback of our riders, we continue to expand mobility options that meet the evolving needs of the region.

This year, we're celebrating major milestones, including the grand reopening of the Northwest Transportation Center in Schaumburg, the completion of our new acceptance facility in Markham, and the ground breaking for the conversion of our North Division in Waukegan into Pace's first fully electric maintenance facility. We're also pushing forward on procuring electric buses to further our commitment to a cleaner, more sustainable future.

Through our *ReVision* project, we're reimagining the way Pace delivers transit, ensuring that our services remain efficient, equitable, and reliable. Your input and support drive these improvements, and we're excited about what's ahead. Visit PaceBus.com/ReVision to offer your feedback and contact your state legislators directly (savetransitnow.org) to let them know the importance of funding more bus service in the suburbs.

Thank you for riding with us—we look forward to delivering even more in 2025 and beyond!



Melinda J. Metzger
Executive Director

Richard A. Kwasneski
Chairman



Advancing Public Transit for a Stronger Future

At Pace, we understand that a thriving region depends on a strong public transit system. In 2024, we laid the foundation for growth, investing in infrastructure, expanding services, and continuing our transition to zero-emission buses. These efforts are already paying off, with increased ridership and a growing demand for reliable, efficient transportation.

However, we know there is still work to be done. Financial uncertainty remains a challenge, but our commitment to advocating for sustainable transit funding has never been stronger. A world-class transit system is essential for economic growth, environmental sustainability, and equitable mobility.

Thank you for your continued support as we work together to shape the future of public transit. We're excited about what's ahead and remain dedicated to providing safe, innovative, and accessible transportation for all.



STRENGTHENING TRANSIT: Officials Celebrate Funding for Electric Buses at New Pace Markham Facility



In February, Governor JB Pritzker, state and local officials joined Pace at the Acceptance Facility of South Campus in Markham to celebrate Pace receiving a \$27 million award from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA).

The new funding represents a significant investment in Pace’s sustainability efforts. The grant award will allow us to purchase 27 battery-electric buses for our fleet. It will help further advance our transition to a cleaner and greener fleet, reduce emissions, and improve air quality for the many communities Pace serves.

It was an honor to host Governor Pritzker at our new Acceptance Facility in Markham. Pace’s latest investment in the south suburbs marks a significant milestone in modernizing operations, bolstering the agency’s south suburban workforce, and enhancing our central Safety and Training, including the introduction of a bus operator training course.

Pace remains grateful for the support of our federal, state, and local partners who have helped make our vision for sustainability a reality. When our partners invest in Pace, they are investing in mobility, economic opportunity, and a cleaner future.

PACE CONTINUES TO MEET WITH STATE LEGISLATORS

On February 14, we hosted members of the Illinois Senate Transportation Committee and provided them with a tour of Heritage Division in Plainfield, which represents our first new bus garage in more than 30 years. The opportunity allowed us to showcase our work to modernize our facilities, the worthy investments we are making in our operations, and the value we continue to provide our region.



REVISION PLAN UPDATE



What is the Pace ReVision plan?

Through ReVision, Pace is rethinking our entire network of services, building on the principles of accessibility, equity and productivity defined in the *Driving Innovation strategic plan*.

The ReVision project is developing a proposal for a reimagined Pace bus and On Demand network, leading to major service changes starting in 2026.

Pace has spent months analyzing existing services, demographic and travel trends, and gathering public input. This work culminated in the release of three network concepts in late 2024, each offering a different vision for where and how often Pace routes should run, and what types of service are best suited for different parts of the region. Following the release of the concepts, Pace gathered public feedback from riders and communities to help inform the next phase of the project.

The next steps in the project are to:

- Create a Draft Plan that includes service improvements by incorporating the feedback gathered from the public and stakeholders during the network concepts phase.
- Release the Draft Plan in mid-2025 to gather public and stakeholder feedback and incorporate the feedback in the development of a Final Plan for 2026.

How do I get involved?

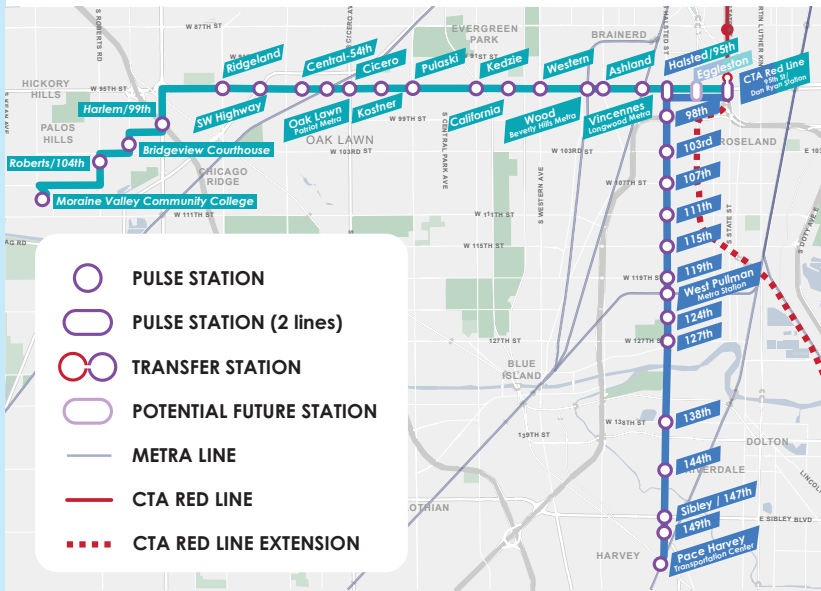
As Pace considers critical system changes, we want to emphasize that your opinions and input are essential to shape Pace’s future service network. Let us know where we need to better serve you today, tomorrow, and in the future. As the project evolves there will be plenty of opportunities to get involved. Here are a few examples:

- Sign up for email/text alerts at Pacebus.com/Revision to stay updated about the project.
- Provide feedback by email at your convenience at revision@pacebus.com.



Pulse Halsted and 95th Street Lines Enter Design Phase in 2025

The Pulse Halsted and 95th Street Lines enter the design phase this year. Building on prior planning and outreach, Pace continues coordinating with community leaders, local governments, and transportation partners to advance the projects to construction-ready design. We also look forward to engaging the public throughout the process.



Like the Milwaukee and Dempster Lines, which opened in 2019 and 2023 respectively, branded purple express buses will run every 15 minutes most of the day. Stations will feature near-level boarding, heated shelters, enhanced lighting, platform snowmelt, and real-time arrival signs integrated into vertical markers.

On the Halsted Line, transit priority measures, including dedicated bus lanes near the Halsted-I-57 bridge and queue jump lanes at intersections, will speed up travel in congested areas. Where CTA and Pace buses operate, stations and priority treatments will accommodate both agencies.

Both projects have been awarded federal grants through construction and have been supported by Cook County’s Invest in Cook program.

Service expansions took effect in March


As part of the 2025 budget, funding was included to improve fixed-route service in some of our highest demand markets and major regional corridors. To that end, we have expanded bus service along the following routes, as of March 2.

The Route 311 Project increases service on weekends and strengthens weekday service, bringing it closer to pre-pandemic levels.

The Route 315 Project establishes additional weekday and weekend service to see if improved service levels will encourage higher ridership along the route. This pilot was identified as part of the existing conditions review for the ReVision project. The review showed that Route 315, which operates along the key regional corridor of Austin Boulevard, could support higher ridership if service levels improved.

The Route 381 Project creates additional weekday service to better position the local route for future Pulse service along 95th Street in the south suburbs.

The Route 383 Project increases both weekday and weekend service to improve regional connectivity. The route operates along Cicero Avenue, a major regional corridor that connects to many bus and rail lines in the southwest suburbs.

We are excited about these pilot projects as they allow us to implement service improvements quickly while providing Pace with an opportunity to review performance before making a permanent investment. Pace is taking the approach of bringing back service where there is a demand because we are an essential service that our riders rely on. 

MAKE YOUR ART BRING PEOPLE TO A STOP.



As part of our 40th year anniversary of providing public transportation to Chicagoland riders we invited artists within the six-county region to create works of art on 40 benches for use at Pace bus stops. As the bench installation continues, we are excited to showcase several more benches that have been installed recently. Hopefully you have a chance to see some of them as you wait for your next Pace bus. We'll continue to showcase more art creations as we wrap up this project in the next few months.

To learn more about this project, visit: PaceBus.com/40benches 



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

Submit comments online at Pace's self-service feedback center at PaceBus.com/contact



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