

Capital Program



2025 | Spring Update





PACE TODAY: ESSENTIAL, EFFICIENT, ENTERPRISING

From shifting post-pandemic travel patterns to the ongoing need for additional funding for suburban transit, Pace has addressed challenges directly and remained committed to delivering services that benefit our passengers and communities.

We are strengthening existing services, introducing new ways to move riders, and modernizing our infrastructure while planning for a future that inspires more people to use transit.

In these pages, you will learn how our Capital Program helps Pace accomplish these successes and brings together the region to meet the evolving transportation needs of our region.

We are proud our family of services continues to nurture vibrant suburban communities where residents can live, work, play, and access critical social services. We are grateful for the support of legislators, community leaders, public transit allies, and our riders — valuable partners in helping to secure a bright and fiscally sound future for us all.

Melinda J Metzger

Melinda J. Metzger, Executive Director



THE CAPITAL PROGRAM DELIVERS

Pace's Capital Program is a set of projects designed to meet the needs of the people of northeastern Illinois now and into the future by expanding service, improving connections, reducing our carbon footprint, and strengthening our infrastructure and technology.

Our focus on performance enables us to respond to the needs of new and returning riders and boost economies throughout the region.



***Modernized
facilities***



***Upgraded
technology***



***Expanded
services***



***Job and Training
opportunities***

SPRING HIGHLIGHTS

Quality public transit is crucial to community well-being and economic vitality. Our performance as an independent agency has far-reaching and lasting positive impacts.

1 Southwest Division COOK COUNTY

Expanding Express and 95th Street Pulse services.

2 River Division KANE COUNTY

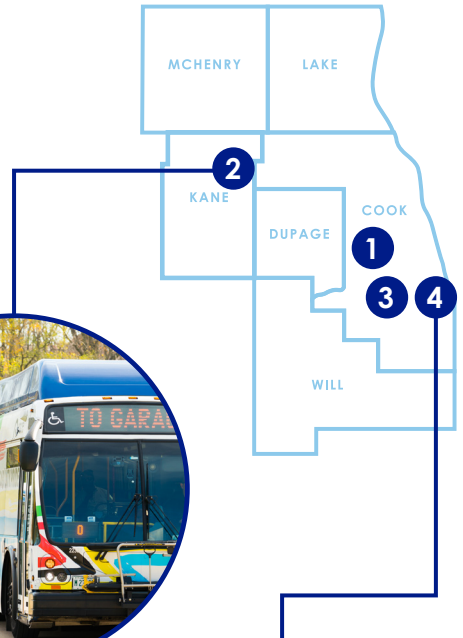
Supporting Express service and increasing cost-efficiency.

3 Markham Campus COOK COUNTY

Operating a new driver training course, acceptance facility, administrative building, and the first indoor EV charging facility.

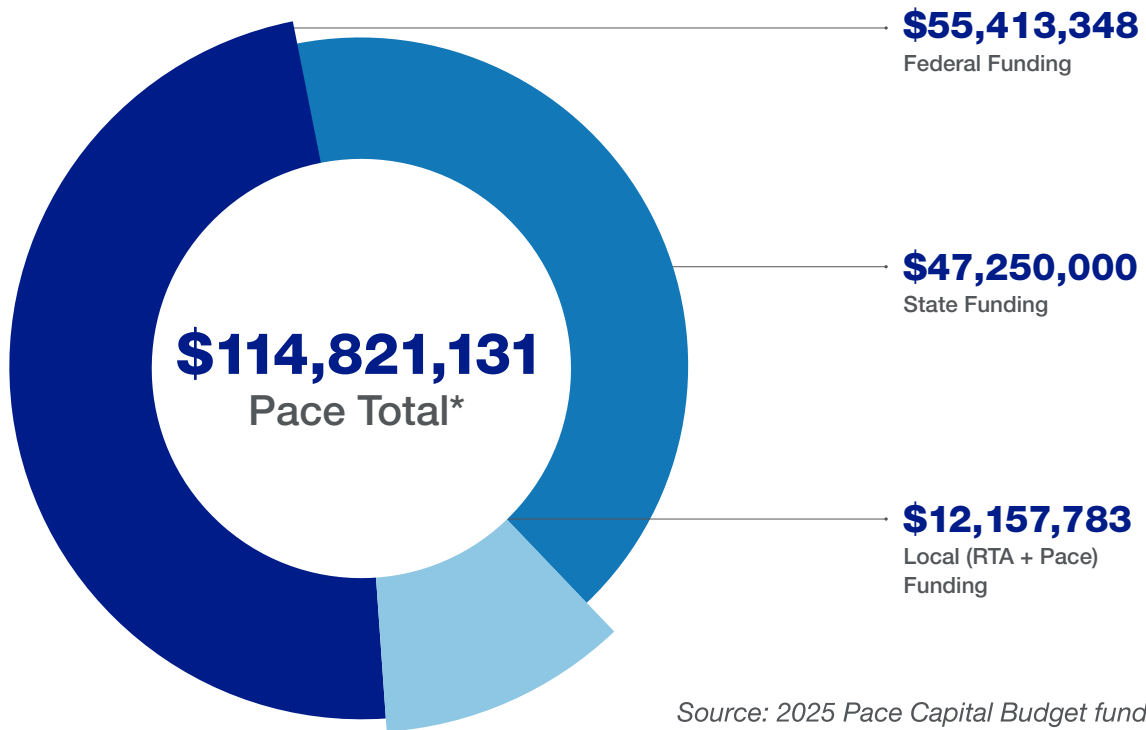
4 ADA Paratransit CALUMET CITY

Groundbreaking on a new facility will take place this year, along with service technology upgrades.



FUNDING PROGRESS

As Pace continues pursuing Capital Program monies for infrastructure and service improvements, the agency continues to outperform — doing more with less funding than other U.S. public transit agencies of similar size and scope.



Source: 2025 Pace Capital Budget funding

Funding Supports Positive Trends

Capital Program-funded service and infrastructure enhancements benefit the region's riders and economy. Ongoing funding will help us support the growth we continue seeing in 2025:

Overall Growth

~1.8 million rides, up 12.1% over January 2024



Bus-on-Shoulder

Up 7.7%

PULSE



Pulse Service

Up 6.6% on Milwaukee line

Up 15.6% on Dempster line



ADA Paratransit

22,000 daily riders

average weekday regional ridership



Regional transit ridership continues to rebound, with **three consecutive years** of double-digit ridership growth.

Due largely to Pulse service, ridership in 2024 along the Dempster Street corridor **exceeded 2019 pre-pandemic ridership.**

Source: RTA



IMPACTS

We're excited to feature those who support our Capital Program projects and the positive impact the work has on communities throughout northeastern Illinois.



AYMERIC ROUSSEAU

*Director, Argonne Vehicle and
Mobility Systems*

“ **Transit
investment has a
substantial positive
impact on the
Chicago area
economy.**”

Evaluating Transit's Role in Economies

Rousseau was one of the leads on a recent joint study by the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Argonne National Laboratory and Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) that examined the important role public transit plays in the region's mobility and economic stability. Study findings revealed that investing in transit systems supports access to jobs, services, and opportunities.

Argonne's POLARIS tool demonstrated that for every \$1 invested in transit, \$13 in economic activity was generated, in addition to reducing travel time and improving public health. Transit is estimated to contribute to \$35B in direct economic activity throughout the region.



Helping Drivers Do Their Best

Featured in our recent “Ride Kind” campaign, Easley is a veteran driver of 25 years who typically operates our Bus-on-Shoulder service at Heritage Plainfield.

She's known for an impeccable safety record and consistently positive feedback from riders.

Opened in 2022, the Plainfield facility is the first new Pace bus garage in more than three decades and features a new passenger facility. The building is fully accessible to riders of all abilities, with a waiting area that enables drivers to safely drop off riders and efficiently return to service. The facility also contains several EV charging ports and nearly 300 new commuter parking spaces.



BARBETTE EASLEY

Bus Operator

“**Capital Program improvements have enabled me to continue providing riders a safe, responsive transit experience.**”





BARBARA HOPKINS

Bus-on-Shoulder Rider

“**My advice?
Take Pace — it’s
the safe way to
go!”**

Swiftly Supporting Work *and* Play

A 2018 Pace bus ride along with a local reporter introduced Hopkins to “a whole new world” of using public transit to travel safely, comfortably, easily, and affordably to and from Chicago. Hopkins introduced friends and neighbors to the **Bus-on-Shoulder** service offered from the **Romeoville Park-n-Ride**, creating a small network of new riders.

In March, Pace contracted architectural and engineering services to expand the Bolingbrook Old Chicago Park-n-Ride, a key hub for the Bus-on-Shoulder Express service that Barbara rides.

The service along the I-55 corridor has seen a 7.7% year-over-year increase in ridership, and expanded parking will support transit from communities in southwest suburban Will and DuPage counties.



Responding to New Patterns

Skoutelas has spoken widely on how U.S. transit agencies are staying ahead of changing travel patterns through initiatives that restructure, reorient, and reimagine their service and networks.

He counts Pace among those providing solutions to new travel patterns through passenger-oriented capital improvements, increased frequency on core routes, more micro-transit for lower demand areas, and responsive ADA paratransit options.

As Pace continues to pursue cost-saving strategies and engage communities and leaders to support funding, we remain committed to providing accessible, affordable, efficient service for all.



PAUL SKOUTELAS

*President and CEO, American
Public Transportation Association*

**“ Investment
in public
transportation
helps communities
of all sizes flourish.”**



FUNDING IMPACT TAKEAWAYS

Studies show the critical role public transit plays in expanding opportunities and growing local economies throughout the country.

Growing Communities

- **5-to-1** economic return produced by long-term investment in public transit
- **87%** of trips on transit directly benefit the local economy
- **50%** of trips are to and from work
- **37%** of trips are to shopping and recreational spending
- **\$382M** in tax revenue supported
- More than **\$42B** in transit spending flows to the private sector *(a 59% increase since 2020)*

Supporting a Workforce

415,103 Total Employed*



U.S. Public Transit Ridership in 2023

7.11 billion
trips

38.87 billion
total passenger miles traveled

Expanding Jobs

50K
jobs created and supported for every **\$1B** invested in job creation

TSP in Northeastern Illinois

Funding support from several Illinois lawmakers has empowered Pace to play a key role in the national movement to invest in Transit Signal Priority (TSP) technology. The installation of new TSP on the busiest routes extends green lights and shortens red lights, keeping buses on time and increasing safety while reducing riders' travel times.



Regional Locations

191

intersections

100 more under installation

60 more planned



On Pace Buses

161

equipped with
enabled routers

*Additional 250 buses to
be equipped in 2025*



Signal Timing Optimization

400

intersections currently

100 more planned

TSP Benefits

at TSP-equipped intersections during peak periods within demo project

- Shortened bus travel times by **15%** *between 25 seconds to 3.3 minutes*
- Reduced total daily bus delays by **27 minutes**



“ We’re making strategic, transformative investments to build a stronger system for our riders today and in the years to come.”

— RICK KWASNESKI

Pace Chairman



Pace is an award-winning agency at the state, regional, and national levels, garnering praise for its efficient budget management and responsive service offerings.



Chicago Metropolitan
Agency for Planning



American
Public Transportation
Association



PaceBus.com