



**Regional  
Transportation  
Authority**

## **For immediate release**

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### **THE RTA INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR PLANNING, OPERATING AND CAPITAL PROJECTS** *Over \$16 million available for projects to help keep our region moving*

Chicago – The Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) is announcing a *Call for Projects* for four specific planning, operating, and capital funding programs to begin on June 24. The programs are designed to support the RTA's Moving Beyond Congestion strategic plan. Over \$16 million in federal and state funding is being made available for operating and capital projects throughout northeastern Illinois. Additional funding is available for planning projects.

Communities, counties, and transportation providers are invited to apply for grants that propose innovative ideas to increase transit usage, provide for multi-modal connections, improve efficiency and effectiveness of local transit, improve access to jobs, and help to increase mobility for our region's seniors, people with disabilities and the general public.

“We're looking for new and innovative projects that really work to give people transportation choices in our region – especially now with record-high gas prices,” said Leanne Redden, Senior Deputy Executive Director of Planning and Regional Programs. “As we move forward with implementing our strategic plan, these funding programs will work as tools to increase mobility and increase access to transportation that will help keep our region on the move.”

Project applications will be accepted through August 8. They will then be screened through a competitive selection process.

For more information on the RTA planning, operating, and capital funding programs, attend the open house on Thursday, July 10, 2008 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the University Center in the Loop/River Room, 525 South State Street in downtown Chicago. You can also get more information and download an application at the programs' website (to be launched June 23), [www.rtachicago.com/programs](http://www.rtachicago.com/programs). Applications are also available at the RTA offices located at 175 West Jackson, Suite 1550, in Chicago.

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## **ABOUT THE PROGRAMS**

### **PLANNING PROGRAMS**

#### **Community Planning**

Formerly known as the Regional Technical Assistance Program, the Community Planning program provides funding for local planning projects that focus on transit-oriented development, local transit improvements, and coordinated paratransit systems. The program is available to units of local government only.

#### **Subregional Planning**

The Subregional Planning program provides funding for regional planning projects including corridor studies, countywide transit improvements, and other regional transit initiatives. The program is available to units of local government and the RTA Service Boards.

### **OPERATING/CAPITAL PROGRAMS**

#### **Job Access Reverse Commute / New Freedom (JARC/NF)**

JARC/NF targets operating and capital projects that enhance mobility for older adults, individuals with low incomes, persons with disabilities, and it addresses reverse commute markets and access to jobs in the region. There is a total of \$6 million in funding available through the JARC/NF program.

#### **Innovation, Coordination and Enhancement (ICE)**

The Innovation, Coordination, and Enhancement (ICE) program targets operating and capital projects that enhance coordination and integration of public transportation or that develop and implement innovations to improve the quality and delivery of public transportation. The program is available to units of local government, transportation agencies and the RTA Service Boards. There is a total of \$10 million in funding available through the ICE program.

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*About the RTA: The RTA provides financial oversight, funding and regional planning for the three public transit operations in Northeastern Illinois: The Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) bus and train, Metra commuter rail and Pace suburban bus and paratransit. For more information, visit [www.rtachicago.com](http://www.rtachicago.com) and [www.MovingBeyondCongestion.org](http://www.MovingBeyondCongestion.org).*