



**Regional
Transportation
Authority**

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**RTA GRANT TO FUND PARK AND RIDE STUDY FOR THE
VILLAGE OF MONTGOMERY**
Commuter lot targeted for future transit station

Chicago -- The Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) announced today the launch of a transit planning project for the Village of Montgomery. The project would plan for a transit facility that would initially serve as a Park and Ride commuter lot with bus service to the Metra Station at the Aurora Transit Center on the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) Line. The Village of Montgomery received an \$112,000 grant (with \$80,000 coming from the RTA) to fund the project through the RTA's Community Planning program, a grant program that focuses on planning assistance for local communities.

Ultimately, the parking facility would serve as a potential transit station, possibly on an extension of Metra service to Montgomery and into Kendall County. The project would research, develop, evaluate and provide recommendations for the ideal site, size, access and usability of such a facility. Representatives from Metra and Pace will serve on the Steering Committee for the project.

"Projects like these are important for communities throughout our region," commented Leanne Redden, Senior Deputy Executive Director of Planning and Regional Programs. "As the RTA works to secure capital funding for transit investments for our region, communities like the Village of Montgomery are working one step ahead to make sure they're ready by laying out the framework for infrastructure improvements."

The study would include the analysis of multiple sites, including the selection of a preferred site, within the planning area of the Village of Montgomery, adjacent to the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad, US Route 30 and Illinois Route 31. The study area is largely industrial with some residential. Once a preferred site has been selected, plans for a Transit Oriented Development (TOD) plan will be developed for the site.

"By identifying a preferred location for the park and ride facility now, the Village can work toward implementing the facility and surrounding development over the next several years," commented President Marilyn Michelini, Village of Montgomery. She added, "By having these plans in place, the Village of Montgomery is showing its commitment to bringing more transit to our community and more transportation options to its citizens."

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The end product of the process will be a set of documents that together collectively lay out the existing conditions, goals and objectives, facility location alternatives analysis, and the recommended location with a detailed plan for the surrounding area.

The RTA continues to work with Illinois lawmakers to develop and pass a comprehensive capital bill for the region that would enhance and expand the transit system. Currently, no state capital program exists, and many transit projects around the region are threatened if a capital bill isn't passed.

About the RTA's Community Planning Program

The Community Planning program provides funding and planning assistance to communities for planning projects that benefit both the local communities and the RTA transit system. Launched in 1999 under the name Regional Technical Assistance Program (RTAP), the program was renamed and launched as the Community Planning program in June 2008 to better reflect the program's focus on planning assistance for local communities.

Community Planning offers units of local government such as municipalities, townships, and local planning agencies an opportunity to participate in the planning of local transit and transit related opportunities. The program funds projects that increase transit usage and multi-modal connectivity, improve access and circulation in and around transit facilities, promote pedestrian and transit friendly environments, develop local transit options, and create coordinated paratransit plans.

Through this program, the RTA seeks projects that are consistent with the four primary goals of its strategic plan: provide transportation options, ensure financial viability, enhance livability and economic vitality and demonstrate value. For more information, visit the program website at www.rtachicago.com/cp.

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About the RTA: The RTA provides financial oversight, funding and regional planning for the three public transit operators 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 and www.MovingBeyondCongestion.org.