



Regional Transportation Authority

For immediate release

DATE: July 22, 2008 (originally released)

UPDATED: July 23, 2008 with Cook County West public hearing

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RTA HOSTS PUBLIC HEARINGS ABOUT TRANSIT BUDGET

Capital investment needs, strategic plan among topics to be discussed

Chicago – The Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) encourages the general public – transit riders and non-transit riders alike – to attend their upcoming budget hearings to be held around the region from August 4 through 14. This round of hearings is being held during the summer to initially inform attendees about: the 2009 budget, implementation of reforms from the new transit legislation, updating the regional strategic plan and the status of a critically needed capital investment to fund transit projects. Then additional hearings will be held later this year before the RTA’s 2009 budget is finalized.

“High gas prices are a contributing factor to increased ridership on the CTA, Metra and Pace as well as more people that are ridesharing. Whether you use mass transit, paratransit service, ride share or drive around northeastern Illinois, we urge you to attend our public hearings to learn about transit issues that will have an impact on the region’s mobility and quality of life, and offer your comments and suggestions,” says Steve Schlickman, RTA Executive Director.

During the public hearings, RTA Board members are scheduled to offer opening remarks followed by RTA senior staff who will conduct presentations. Attendees will have the opportunity to make public comments and ask questions. The schedule is as follows:

CHICAGO

Central

Monday, August 4th, 9:00 a.m.

Regional Transportation Authority, 175 W. Jackson Blvd. Suite #1550, Chicago

South

Monday, August 4th, 6:00 p.m.

Mount Calvary Baptist Church, 1259 W. 111th St., Chicago

Southwest

Wednesday, August 6th, 6:00 p.m.

Toman Public Library, 2708 S. Pulaski Rd., Chicago

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North

Thursday, August 7th, 6:00 p.m.
Loyola University, Rubloff Auditorium, 1st fl., Water Tower Campus, 25 E. Pearson, Chicago

West

Tuesday, August 12th, 6:00 p.m.
Chinese Community Center, 250 W. 22nd Place, Chicago

SUBURBAN COOK COUNTY

South

Monday, August 11th, 6:00 p.m.
South Suburban Mayors & Managers (Mtg. Rm C), 1904 W. 174th St., East Hazel Crest

North

Tuesday, August 12th, 6:00 p.m.
Pace Headquarters (Board Room), 550 W. Algonquin Rd., Arlington Heights

West

Wednesday, August 13th, 6:00 p.m.
Village of Westchester Court Room, 10300 Roosevelt Rd., Westchester

DUPAGE COUNTY

Wednesday, August 6th, 6:00 p.m.
DuPage Co. Building (Auditorium), 421 N. County Farm Rd., Wheaton

KANE COUNTY

Thursday, August 14th, 6:00 p.m.
The Centre of Elgin, 100 Symphony Way, Elgin

LAKE COUNTY

Thursday, August 14th, 6:00 p.m.
University Center of Lake County, Enter at main entrance on Washington St. (at Lancer Lane), Grayslake

MCHENRY COUNTY

Wednesday, August 13th, 6:00 p.m.
Woodstock Admin. Bldg., 2nd Floor Conference Rm., 667 Ware Rd., Woodstock

WILL COUNTY

Tuesday, August 5th, 6:00 p.m.
Joliet Historical Museum, 204 N. Ottawa St., Joliet

Meetings are open to the general public, and all locations are ADA accessible. For questions, call the RTA at 312-913-3153 or log on to www.movingbeyondcongestion.org.

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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 and www.MovingBeyondCongestion.org.

