



RTA Hosts Public Hearings about Transit Budget

Capital investment needs, strategic plan among topics to be discussed

The RTA encourages the general public – transit riders and non-transit riders alike – to attend our upcoming budget hearings to be held around the region in August. This round of hearings is being held during the summer to initially inform attendees about: the 2009 budget outlook, progress on implementing reforms from the new transit legislation, updating the regional strategic plan and the status of a critically needed capital investment to fund transit projects. Additional hearings will be held later this year before the RTA's 2009 budget is finalized.

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. Meetings are open to the public. 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

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.
Court Room, 10300 Roosevelt Rd., Westchester

DuPAGE COUNTY

Wednesday, August 6th — 6:00 p.m.
DuPage Cty. 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, Grayslake
(Enter at main entrance on Washington St. at Lancer Lane)

McHENRY COUNTY

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

WILL COUNTY

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

Jim Reilly
RTA Chairman

James Buchanan
City of Chicago

Jan Carlson
Kane County

William R. Coulson
Suburban Cook County

Rev. L. Tyrone Crider, Sr.
Suburban Cook County

Patrick J. Durand
DuPage County

Phil Fuentes
City of Chicago

Al Jourdan
McHenry County

Dwight A. Magalis
Lake County

Patrick V. Riley, Jr.
Suburban Cook County

Michael Rosenberg
City of Chicago

J.D. Ross
Will County

Michael Scott
City of Chicago

Judy Baar Topinka
Suburban Cook County

Douglas M. Troiani
Suburban Cook County

Stephen E. Schlickman
Executive Director

Next RTA Board Meeting:
August 21, 2008 - 9:30 a.m.
Committee Meetings begin at
8:00 a.m.

RTA Main Office

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Chicago, Illinois 60604
(312) 913-3200
www.rtachicago.com

Log on to www.MovingBeyondCongestion.org for more information or call the RTA at 312-913-3153.

Transit Projects Being Sought

The RTA is making available over \$16 million in federal and state funding for innovative operating to help keep our region on the go.

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.

Project applications will be accepted through August 8.

For an application and more information on the RTA planning, operating, and capital funding programs, visit www.rtachicago.com/programs.

Applications are also available at the RTA offices located at 175 West Jackson, Suite 1550, in Chicago.

A Gratifying Experience: Interning at the RTA

By Joseph Battle, RTA Intern in Planning and Communications

This summer, I, along with four other college students, have had the pleasure of gaining valuable experience as interns with the RTA. Even though we are getting used to the ups and downs of the real-world work force, the opportunity of learning how a public-oriented business is run is indeed one for which to be grateful.

We received our internships through the RTA's partnership with Mayor Daley's Chicago KidStart Program. We are thankful for this opportunity and finding it worthwhile to take part in this program, because as RTA Executive Director Steve Schlickman stated before, "In these economic times summer jobs for the youth are becoming more limited."

Not only are we honored to be here, but we are making an effort to do the best job we can and make a positive impact on the agency. We have all been involved in very interesting activities. Dante Stanton, a college sophomore from Malcolm X College, has been updating ordinances and reports for amendment agreement contracts in the Grants and Capital Program department. As a result, many important documents have now been filed into the Consolidated Technical Assistance Program (CTAP), helping to reduce office backlog.

Additionally, college senior Semaj Singleton is an example of how we are doing work in our areas of interest. He is an Information Technology major from Westwood College. Semaj states "I have been working on inventory of physical assets, and keys held by the staff. Also I have moonlighted for the IT department and have gotten experience dealing with hardware and software issues for the travel information center," which will clearly benefit him in his future endeavors. Also with us is Jeanita Moore, a junior from the University of Illinois-Champaign. She is a healthcare major, and she works in the RTA's ADA Paratransit department. She says "I have been certifying people to receive reduced fares for those with disabilities that cannot ride regular transit..." and she is encouraged by the impact she is having on peoples' lives.

To go along with that, I have been doing a great deal of work both in Planning and Communications, with the bulk of my day committed to iterative testing of the proposed new trip planner for the RTA, along with researching information to help make the website more efficient and user-friendly. Even though I am a sophomore communications major from Clark Atlanta University, I am glad the RTA looked beyond my major and decided to take advantage of other skills I have.

Working here has helped us gain a better understanding of the RTA and witness the hard work that goes on every day. We also agree that the job is made easier by the pleasant working environment, which is a credit to our co-workers who display nothing less than the utmost passion and respect for the various tasks at hand. Phillip Worsham, a sophomore from Western Illinois University, working in the ADA department as a clerical assistant, states that "[The co-workers] are nice, easy to get along with, outgoing, and professional," and this has made our experience even more enjoyable.

Aside from the technical abilities we have obtained, we will be able to take with us the intangible skills of teamwork and professionalism. Thanks to our managers who have challenged us from day one, we do believe our work is serious, and we are making a positive impact on the RTA. Experience gained here will also give us more insight when choosing potential careers. When this internship is over, we will be able to reflect on our time here at the RTA as a truly gratifying experience.



RTA Interns: Phillip Worsham, Dante Stanton, Jeanita Moore, Semaj Singleton and Joseph Battle

Regional Transportation Authority Financial Report

APRIL 2008 (For comparative purposes, the CTA figures in 2006 do not include expenses for paratransit service)

The combined net results of the Service Boards of \$87.5 million were unfavorable to budget by \$2.4 million or 2.8%. Compared to prior year, net results were unfavorable by \$8.0 million or 10.1%.

Year-to-date combined net results of the Service Boards of \$362.6 million were \$3.2 million or 0.9% unfavorable to budget. The combined Service Boards revenue was \$7.3 million favorable, while expenses were \$10.5 million unfavorable to budget. Compared to prior year, each Service Board had unfavorable results in a combined amount of \$29.6 million.

Recovery Ratio

The system-generated recovery ratio of 54.2% was 1.4 points unfavorable to budget and was 3.8 points favorable to prior year's result.

The year-to-date recovery ratio of 53.2% was 0.4 points higher than budget and was 5.1 points favorable to last year's result.

Sales Tax

April sales tax was not available as *In Transit* was going to print. Sales tax through March of \$170.9 million was \$1.8 million or 1.0% lower than budget and was \$0.3 million or 0.2% higher than prior year.

Ridership

Ridership for April of 55.3 million was 2.7 million or 5.1% higher than budget and was 5.1 million or 10.2% higher than prior year.

Year-to-date ridership of 205.4 million was 5.0 million or 2.5% higher than budget and was 8.4 million or 4.3% higher than prior year.

APRIL 2008 Operating Financial Report—Regional Summary (in millions)⁽³⁾

	Current Year vs. Budget								Current Year vs. Prior Year					
	Month				Year to Date				Month			Year to Date		
	Actual	Budget	Δ Unit	Δ %	Actual	Budget	Δ Unit	Δ %	Actual	Δ Unit	Δ %	Actual	Δ Unit	Δ %
Net Results														
CTA	\$54.8	\$52.0	(\$2.8)	(5.4%)	\$221.9	\$215.4	(\$6.5)	(3.0%)	\$49.6	(5.2)	(10.5%)	\$211.4	(\$10.6)	(5.0%)
Metra	\$22.5	\$23.1	\$0.5	2.3%	\$101.9	\$102.8	\$0.8	0.8%	\$21.0	(1.5)	(7.1%)	\$88.8	(13.1)	(14.8%)
Pace	<u>\$10.1</u>	<u>\$10.1</u>	<u>(\$0.1)</u>	<u>(0.6%)</u>	<u>\$38.7</u>	<u>\$41.2</u>	<u>\$2.4</u>	<u>5.9%</u>	<u>\$8.8</u>	<u>(1.3)</u>	<u>(14.8%)</u>	<u>\$32.8</u>	<u>(5.9)</u>	<u>(18.0%)</u>
Total (2)	\$87.5	\$85.1	(\$2.4)	(2.8%)	\$362.6	\$359.4	(\$3.2)	(0.9%)	\$79.5	(\$8.0)	(10.1%)	\$333.0	(\$29.6)	(8.9%)
Recovery Ratio (%)														
CTA	49.6%	50.8%	(1.2)		46.7%	47.2%	(0.5)		49.3%	0.3		47.6%	(0.8)	
Metra	57.6%	56.5%	1.1		52.3%	51.5%	0.7		55.5%	2.0		53.3%	(1.0)	
Pace	37.9%	36.7%	1.3		36.5%	34.0%	2.5		38.8%	(0.9)		38.9%	(2.4)	
System (3)	54.2%	55.6%	(1.4)		53.2%	52.9%	0.4		50.4%	3.8		48.2%	5.1	
Ridership														
CTA	45.0	42.6	2.3	5.5%	165.6	162.1	3.5	2.2%	40.4	4.6	11.3%	158.9	6.7	4.2%
Metra	7.1	6.9	0.2	3.3%	28.1	26.7	1.3	5.0%	6.8	0.3	4.7%	26.6	1.4	5.4%
Pace	3.2	3.1	0.1	3.4%	11.7	11.6	0.2	1.5%	2.9	0.2	8.3%	11.5	0.3	2.5%
Total	55.3	52.6	2.7	5.1%	205.4	200.4	5.0	2.5%	50.2	5.1	10.2%	197.0	8.4	4.3%

Bracketed data represents an unfavorable change. Line item calculations are based on whole numbers, some totals may not sum.

(1) Does not include region wide ADA paratransit service. (2) Sum of service board deficits.

(3) Service Board results exclude certain revenues and expenses that are included in the system calculation. The system calculation excludes certain Service Board revenues but includes the statutory expense credit for 2008 totaling \$200 million.

WHAT'S THE COOLEST WAY TO THE MALL?

drivelesslivemore.com

There's an alternative way to travel through life.

The *drive less live more* campaign is in full swing with ads like this appearing on buses and trains throughout the region. Radio ads have also hit the airwaves to help educate people in the region that there is an alternative way to get through life at www.drivelesslivemore.com.

RTA Job Opportunities

Find out more at www.rtachicago.com

Project Manager, Engineering & Technology:

This position manages multi-faceted and complex technical projects related to transportation technology. Most projects are in the area of transit Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS), which encompass the application of information and communication technologies to enhance operational efficiencies and traveler information. Duties include performing and/or project managing the planning, design, implementation, evaluation, operations and maintenance of the RTA's ITS technologies.

Division Manager, External Audit:

The position is responsible for developing and directing the performance of financial, compliance, management, and operational audits and reviews of the Service Boards. Responsible for planning, directing, coordinating, and controlling the daily operations of the External Audit division to ensure that all functions are performed effectively and efficiently.

For more information and to apply, visit www.rtachicago.com.

RTA Staff News

The RTA has welcomed two new employees and an intern to the Authority. Gilbert (Gil) Feliciano started on July 14 as the Manager, Public Outreach, reporting to Diane Palmer. Prior to joining the RTA, Gil worked for the City of Elgin where he was the Community Relations/Outreach Coordinator. Gil received his Bachelor of Arts degree from the Moody Bible Institute and earned a Juris Doctor from the Simon Greenleaf School of Law, in Anaheim, CA.



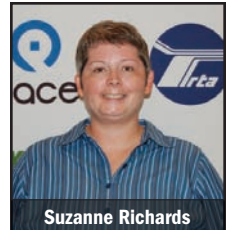
Gilbert Feliciano

Jeanita Moore joined the RTA as a summer intern on July 7 as part of Mayor's Daley's Summer Jobs Program. She reports to Anne LeFevre in the ADA Paratransit Certification Program. Jeanita is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Community Health from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.



Jeanita Moore

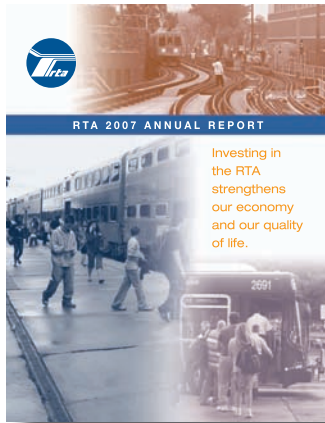
Suzanne Richards joined the RTA on June 30 as a Travel Trainer reporting to Michael VanDekreke. Prior to joining the RTA, Suzanne worked for Pheromone, Inc. as an independent contractor. Suzanne is pursuing an M.Ed. Multicultural Education at Eastern University.



Suzanne Richards

Paper or PDF? It's Your Choice!

Want our newsletter delivered right to your inbox? Then sign up now for the electronic version of *InTransit* by sending an e-mail to communications@rtachicago.org. If you still prefer the paper version, no problem! Just make sure we have your address right. Use that same e-mail address for any changes you might have!



2007 RTA ANNUAL REPORT RELEASED

The RTA recently released its 2007 Annual Report. The report is available at www.rtachicago.com or for a hard copy, e-mail your name and address to communications@rtachicago.org.



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