



**Regional
Transportation
Authority**

For Immediate Release

DATE: August XX, 2009

CONTACT: Diane Palmer, Director of Communications, RTA
Office: 312-913-3282 Cell: 312-907-6902 Email: palmerd@rtachicago.org

STATEMENT FROM RTA BOARD CHAIRMAN JIM REILLY:

RTA SAYS METRA'S ACCEPTANCE OF CREDIT/DEBIT CARDS HUGE STEP TOWARD COORDINATED FARE PAYMENT SYSTEM

The Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) is pleased that Metra is providing its customers with more payment options. Their initiative to accept credit/debit card payments for fares not only brings convenience to its customers, but is pivotal toward the future implementation of a coordinated fare payment system.

The RTA has been exploring a coordinated system for fare collection, service and technology among the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA), Metra and Pace. Currently, the CTA and Pace accept smart cards for transit fare purchases. Now with Metra's acceptance of credit cards, we can begin to move that much closer to creating a seamless regional payment system. The RTA wishes to acknowledge Governor Quinn and the General Assembly's leadership to advance this important agenda. The bill number is Senate Bill 577, sponsored by Senator Michael Bond (D) in the Senate and Representative Elaine Nekritz (D) in the House, and was signed into law by Governor Quinn recently as Public Act 96-0621.

###

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.