



November 2008

A Monthly Report of The Regional Transportation Authority

- 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. Durante
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:
November 20, 2008 - 9:30 a.m.
Committee Meetings begin at
8:00 a.m.

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People With Disabilities Ride Free Program Launched

Riders must have RTA-issued Circuit Permit to take advantage of free rides

On October 24, the CTA, Metra and Pace began providing free rides on fixed-route transit for the People with Disabilities Ride Free Program. Signed into law on August 26, new legislation requires the free rides for any Illinois resident who is enrolled as a person with a disability in the Illinois Circuit Breaker program.

Individuals enrolled in the Circuit Breaker program with a disability must apply for the RTA-issued "Circuit Permit" that will allow them to ride free on fixed-route transit in the RTA service region. The application process takes approximately four weeks.

As *InTransit* was going to print, over 30,000 applications had been processed and nearly 15,000

Circuit Permits had been issued. The RTA has a team of full-time RTA staff and eight full-time temporary staff dedicated to processing applications as well as answering phone calls regarding the program.

To board CTA and Pace buses, riders need to insert their permit into the fare box or the turnstile for CTA trains. On Metra, riders need to show their Circuit Permit to the conductor. Metra riders may have to show additional identification.

For more information on the program, visit www.rtachicago.com/PeopleWithDisabilitiesRideFree.



RTA Board Approves 43 Projects

The RTA Board of Directors approved funding for 43 planning, operating and capital transit projects at its October meeting. The projects are located throughout the six-county RTA service region that consists of Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry and Will counties. The RTA plans to allocate over \$18 million in federal, state and RTA funding to support innovative projects that will increase transit usage and provide multi-modal connections.

Communities, counties and transportation providers were invited to apply for the funding

Ribbon cutting ceremony on October 23 for additional service on Metra's SouthWest Service Line (l-r): Mayor Bill Borgo, Manhattan; Steve Schlickman, RTA Executive Director; U.S. Rep. Dan Lipinski, D-IL; Mayor Eugene Siegel, Chicago Ridge; Mayor Robert Straz, Palos Heights; and Phil Pagano, Metra Executive Director.



grants. Out of 62 proposals submitted, 43 were recommended to the Board for funding. Applicants are required to provide a certain percentage of the total project cost. The programs are designed to implement legislative mandates approved in January for the RTA:

(Projects, continued on next page)

Bus Rapid Transit Gains Regional Importance

An RTA Board sub-committee focusing on bus rapid transit (BRT) met on October 2nd and 23rd. Director Jan Carlson chairs the committee with Directors Coulson, Fuentes, Riley, Scott and Topinka serving as members.

The sub-committee has discussed goals and objectives which include establishing a work plan for spring 2009, plans to implement a short list of projects in the near term, establishing a Board-staff partnership and an interagency working group seeing that the service boards have already started considering BRT projects.

Immediate work involves the subcommittee developing and assessing information about BRT including a market analysis then reporting back to the full Board to propose a plan. Also through the new transit legislation, the RTA and the Illinois Department of Transportation are mandated to examine the I-55 median as a potential BRT project.

Rep. Julie Hamos Wins Distinguished Service Award

The American Public Transportation Association (APTA) awarded Illinois State Representative Julie Hamos (D-Evanston) its Local Distinguished Service Award at its October national meeting.

Rep. Hamos was chosen from candidates across the U.S. for her contributions to the public transportation industry at the local level through policy, legislative initiative and leadership. Rep. Hamos' extensive work in passing funding and organizational reforms to the regional transit system narrowly averted drastic service cuts, higher fares and layoffs last year.

In meeting after meeting of the Illinois House Mass Transit Committee, which she founded, she pushed for ways to repair the system, which had failed to adapt as the region grew. She sought input from every corner of the region from the riders, business, organized labor, community groups, and even those from outside the region because of transit's profound economic impact on the entire state.



Honoring Rep. Julie Hamos were Steve Schlickman, RTA Executive Dir. & John Andrews, Public Transit V.P. for ABC Companies.

Transit Conference Focuses on Infrastructure Investment

The 8th annual DuPage Discovery Conference was held in Addison on October 10th. Jim Reilly, RTA Chairman, and Leanne Redden, Senior Deputy Executive Director of Planning and Regional Programs, presented to the group of region-wide attendees about the pursuit to secure new capital funding and new governance reforms. Bill Lenski, RTA, Manager of Corridor Planning Studies, provided an update on the Cook-DuPage Corridor Project. Approximately 100 transportation planners, transit agency representatives, including RTA board members Jan Carlson and Patrick Durante and elected officials, attended the event. Phil Pagano and T.J. Ross also presented updates about Metra and Pace, respectively.



Bill Lenski, RTA Manager of Corridor Planning, updates attendees on the Cook-DuPage Corridor Plans.

Transportation Agencies Host Procurement Symposium

The RTA, CTA, Metra, Pace and the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) will host the 12th Annual Transportation Symposium & Business Exchange on December 2 from noon to 6 p.m. at the Chicago Hilton & Towers, 720 South Michigan Ave.

Vendors and contractors interested in doing business with regional transportation agencies are invited to attend the vendor exhibition, and events including:

- A workshop titled "How to Get Bids, Get Contracts, and Get Paid!"
- A Business Forum followed by a Networking Reception. During the one-on-one business exchange, Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE) can meet with procurement and departmental representatives from each agency and network with contractors and vendors to explore contracting business opportunities.

Registration begins at noon followed by the information workshop from 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. and the event concludes with the Business Forum and Networking Reception from 3:00 – 6:00 p.m.

To register for the symposium, call 312-243-3554 or visit www.merrygreenpromotions.com to register online. Pre-registration is \$75 and on-site registration is \$95.

Regional Transportation Authority Financial Report

JULY 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 \$93.5 million were unfavorable to budget by \$6.9 million or 8.0%. Compared to last year, net results were unfavorable by \$17.8 million or 23.5%. Year-to-date net results for the Service Boards of \$627.5 million were \$3.1 million or 0.5% unfavorable to budget. The combined Service Boards revenue was \$3.2 million favorable, while expenses were \$6.3 million unfavorable to budget. Compared to prior year, each Service Board had unfavorable results in a combined amount of \$67.7 million.

Recovery Ratio

The recovery ratio of 56.2% was 1.2 points unfavorable to budget and was 3.8 points favorable to prior year's result. The year-to-date recovery ratio of 54.3% was 0.2 points

favorable to budget and was 4.3 points favorable to last year's result.

Sales Tax

July sales tax of \$61.4 million was \$4.0 million or 6.1% lower than budget and \$0.8 million or 1.3% lower than prior year. Year-to-date sales tax through July of \$423.8 million was \$12.1 million or 2.8% lower than budget and \$0.9 million or 0.2% lower than last year's result.

Ridership

Regional ridership for July of 58.2 million was 0.3 million or 0.5% lower than budget and was 5.3 million or 10.1% higher than prior year. For the year, ridership of 375.3 million was 1.9 million or 0.5% higher than budget and was 18.5 million or 5.2% higher than prior year.

JULY 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	\$57.9	\$55.3	(\$2.6)	(4.6%)	\$387.3	\$383.9	(\$3.5)	(0.9%)	\$47.5	(10.4)	(21.8%)	\$351.1	(\$36.2)	(10.3%)			
Metra	\$23.4	\$21.0	(\$2.4)	(11.2%)	\$169.2	\$168.9	(\$0.3)	(0.2%)	\$19.6	(3.8)	(19.5%)	\$149.5	(19.7)	(13.1%)			
Pace	<u>\$12.3</u>	<u>\$10.3</u>	<u>(\$2.0)</u>	<u>(19.5%)</u>	<u>\$71.0</u>	<u>\$71.7</u>	<u>\$0.7</u>	<u>1.0%</u>	<u>\$8.7</u>	<u>(3.6)</u>	<u>(41.7%)</u>	<u>\$59.2</u>	<u>(11.8)</u>	<u>(19.9%)</u>			
Total (2)	\$93.5	\$86.6	(\$6.9)	(8.0%)	\$627.5	\$624.4	(\$3.1)	(0.5%)	\$75.7	(\$17.8)	(23.5%)	\$559.9	(\$67.7)	(12.1%)			
Recovery																	
Ratio (%)																	
CTA	50.5%	50.9%	(0.4)		48.4%	48.7%	(0.2)		51.9%	(1.5)		49.9%	(1.5)				
Metra	59.4%	62.8%	(3.4)		55.8%	55.1%	0.7		61.8%	(2.4)		55.9%	(0.0)				
Pace	29.4%	36.8%	(7.4)		35.7%	35.1%	0.6		39.3%	(9.9)		39.0%	(3.2)				
System (3)	56.2%	57.4%	(1.2)		54.3%	54.2%	0.2		52.4%	3.8		50.1%	4.3				
Sales Tax																	
Revenue																	
Region	\$61.4	\$65.3	(\$4.0)	(6.1%)	\$423.8	\$435.9	(\$12.1)	(2.8%)	\$62.2	(\$0.8)	(1.3%)	\$424.7	(\$0.9)	(0.2%)			
Ridership																	
CTA	46.6	47.6	(0.9)	(2.0%)	302.5	303.4	(0.9)	(0.3%)	42.3	4.3	10.2%	287.4	15.0	5.2%			
Metra	8.1	7.8	0.3	4.2%	51.2	49.0	2.2	4.6%	7.6	0.6	7.5%	48.6	2.6	5.3%			
Pace	<u>3.4</u>	<u>3.1</u>	<u>0.3</u>	<u>9.2%</u>	<u>21.6</u>	<u>21.0</u>	<u>0.6</u>	<u>3.1%</u>	<u>3.0</u>	<u>0.4</u>	<u>14.1%</u>	<u>20.8</u>	<u>0.9</u>	<u>4.1%</u>			
Total	58.2	58.5	(0.3)	(0.5%)	375.3	373.4	1.9	0.5%	52.8	5.3	10.1%	356.9	18.5	5.2%			

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.

RTA Job Opportunities

Find out more at www.rtachicago.com

Senior Analyst, Grants & Capital Program: This position will be responsible for assisting with the management of the RTA Five-Year Capital Program, the Consolidated Technical Assistance Program (CTAP) and associated grants and agreements. Provide departmental project management support and compliance review. Provide support and comprehensive analyses for presentations to the RTA Board of Directors, management and staff.

Issue and manage the Service Board grants and grant amendments; review and analyze project descriptions and grant application documents; maintains grant inventory; and prepare concurrence, grant closeout, budget revision, and force account analysis and recommendations for Service Board generated requests.

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

RTA Staff News



Annah Mitchell

On November 3, the RTA welcomed Annah Mitchell as our new Communications Manager. Prior to joining the RTA, Annah worked for the McCormick Tribune Foundation where she held the position of Senior Communications Officer. Annah earned her Bachelor of Philosophy in Communications Degree from Northwestern University.

(Projects, continued from front page)

Community Planning Program: Formerly known as the Regional Technical Assistance Program (RTAP), 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 Program: 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.

Job Access Reverse Commute / New Freedom (JARC/NF) Program: JARC/NF targets operating and capital projects that enhance mobility for older adults, individuals with low incomes and persons with disabilities, and it addresses reverse commute markets and access to jobs in the region.

Innovation, Coordination and Enhancement (ICE) Program: 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.

The RTA asked the public to comment on the list of projects before the RTA's Board action. Nearly 70 comments were submitted with a vast majority of those being positive and in support of the projects.



Regional Transportation Authority

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