



**Regional
Transportation
Authority**

For immediate release

DATE: December 18, 2008

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RTA Board approves 2009 budget for transit system *Board of directors approves \$2.4 billion in operating expenses*

CHICAGO – The Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) board of directors adopted the 2009 budget at their December monthly board meeting. A budget of \$2.4 billion in operating expenses was approved for the RTA and its transit agencies, the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA), Metra and Pace.

“We are very pleased with today’s budget approval. The process also involved 26 public hearings with over 170 attendees who offered valuable input and expressed support for our transit system,” said Steve Schlickman, executive director, RTA. The budget hearings allowed riders to give their input on the budget and to receive updates on 43 transit projects approved by the RTA board in October. Riders were also updated on the need for a capital investment bill to be passed that would allow for transit system enhancements and expansions.

“We are certainly in a better place today than a year ago; our service boards aren’t facing doomsday as we did last year that threatened significant system-wide fare hikes, service cuts and layoffs. We’re better positioned to operate efficiently with the budget approval, and we can move forward strengthening our transit system’s infrastructure. However, we are still in dire need of a capital bill,” Schlickman said. “If we can attain a transit capital bill, this would ensure that we could not just maintain our system in a state of good repair, but meet rapidly growing ridership demands calling for improved and expanded service.”

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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.