



For immediate release

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LOCAL TRANSIT AGENCIES PROMOTE FOURTH ANNUAL NATIONAL DUMP THE PUMP DAY ON JUNE 18

City and suburban outreach encourages transit use as answer to high gas prices

Chicago – As American's continue to face rising fuel costs, the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA), Chicago Transit Authority (CTA), Metra and Pace announced today that they will join public transportation systems nationwide to participate in the Fourth Annual National Dump the Pump Day on June 18. Sponsored by the American Public Transportation Association (APTA), the 2009 National Dump the Pump Day offers commuters an alternative to driving, by encouraging them to ride public transportation for the day, saving money, protecting the environment, reducing our dependence on foreign oil, and improving our quality of life.

Transit Ambassadors from the RTA, CTA, Metra and Pace will be available at the following stations from 7 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. on June 18 to provide information on how commuters can save money by using pretax dollars to purchase transit:

- 95th/Dan Ryan Red Line
- Rosemont Blue Line Station
- Union Station
- CTA Clark/Lake Station
- Metra Transit Station Route 59 – Naperville/Aurora

“With the economic downturn affecting everyone, now is the time to save money and ride public transportation,” said Steve Schlickman, RTA Executive Director. “The National Dump the Pump Day on June 18 is an opportunity for people across the country to ease the strain on their wallets and provide a more secure future for America.”

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Individuals can save an average of more than \$8,000 annually by taking public transportation instead of driving. For every \$1 invested in public transportation infrastructure, \$6 is generated in economic returns to communities, according to APTA.

Public transportation saves 900,000 automobile fill-ups each day – 4.2 billion gallons of gasoline per year and switching to public transportation can reduce individual carbon emissions by 20 pounds per day or 4,800 pounds per year, according to APTA.

“Taking advantage of the transit benefit allowance may help riders stretch their transit dollars even further,” said T.J. Ross, Pace’s Executive Director. “We encourage our daily riders and new riders, to take advantage of this important transit benefit to keep more money in their pockets.”

Saving money can go hand-in-hand with saving the environment on Dump The Pump Day. As of spring 2009, CTA has 150 hybrid articulated buses in operation.

“Hybrid buses are already helping to clear the air here in Chicago and more are on the way.” said Richard Rodriguez, CTA President.

An additional 58 hybrid articulated buses will be added to the fleet throughout summer 2009. Hybrid buses are quieter, cleaner and run smoother than conventional engine systems. The CTA encourages multi-modal transportation. All CTA buses are conveniently equipped with bicycle racks, and indoor bicycle parking is available at more than 80 rail stations.

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