

# PULSE

## Pulse's Rapid Growth



State, county, and local officials join Pace to commemorate launch of daily service on the second Pulse line on November 10, 2023.

**The Pulse network is expanding!** On October 29, Pace celebrated the launch of the Pulse Dempster Line, the newest addition to its arterial bus rapid transit network. The new service offers a fast, frequent, and reliable way to get to destinations from Evanston to O'Hare Airport. Dempster is the second Pulse Line to launch and connects to the CTA Purple and Yellow Lines; Metra Union Pacific North, Union Pacific Northwest, and North Central Service lines; and Pace's Pulse Milwaukee Line. Leveraging Transit Signal Priority (TSP) technology, which extends green lights for buses at intersections, Pulse efficiently navigates through traffic with up to 15 minutes in reduced travel times.

**A NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION: SUPPORT ENHANCED PUBLIC TRANSIT!** The brand-new Pulse Dempster Line began daily service in October, and the Pulse Milwaukee Line is going strong. With stops at major destinations including the Golf Mill Shopping Center, make use of those holiday gift cards without the hassle of finding parking. The Dempster Line and Milwaukee Line also connect to CTA and Metra services to get you between downtown Chicago and the suburbs.

### What's new? >>

- Pulse Dempster Line launches full daily service
- Pulse ridership gains momentum in 2023
- Stakeholder meetings for the Pulse Cermak Line are underway
- Pulse 95th Street Line completes the federal environmental review process
- Final design plans to be developed for Pulse 95th Street Line and Pulse Halsted Line



# Pulse Lines in Service



Pulse Dempster Line offers premium bus service with limited stops and modern, branded stations and buses. Buses run between Evanston and O'Hare International Airport every 15 minutes during the day and every 20 minutes during early morning and late night, seven days per week. Some stations are currently under construction.

Visit [PaceBus.com/Pulse](https://PaceBus.com/Pulse) for schedule information and the most current list of boarding locations.



## Strong Recovery

Ridership is already looking great on Pulse Dempster Line, and the Milwaukee Line is going strong, too! While transit ridership declined across the country during the pandemic, Pace is seeing a strong recovery in 2023 and is anticipating increased ridership in 2024.

**“Hurray for increased bus frequency and speed!”**  
 @UrbanEnviroll

**“I can't tell you how nice it is to be able to get off the UP-N after 9pm and to have a bus that I can rely on taking me home.”**  
 @AnalytiKroll

**“The new Pace Pulse Dempster bus looks nice!”**  
 Joe Myers

**“This rocks”**  
 Michael McLean

# STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS UNDERWAY for Pulse Cermak Line

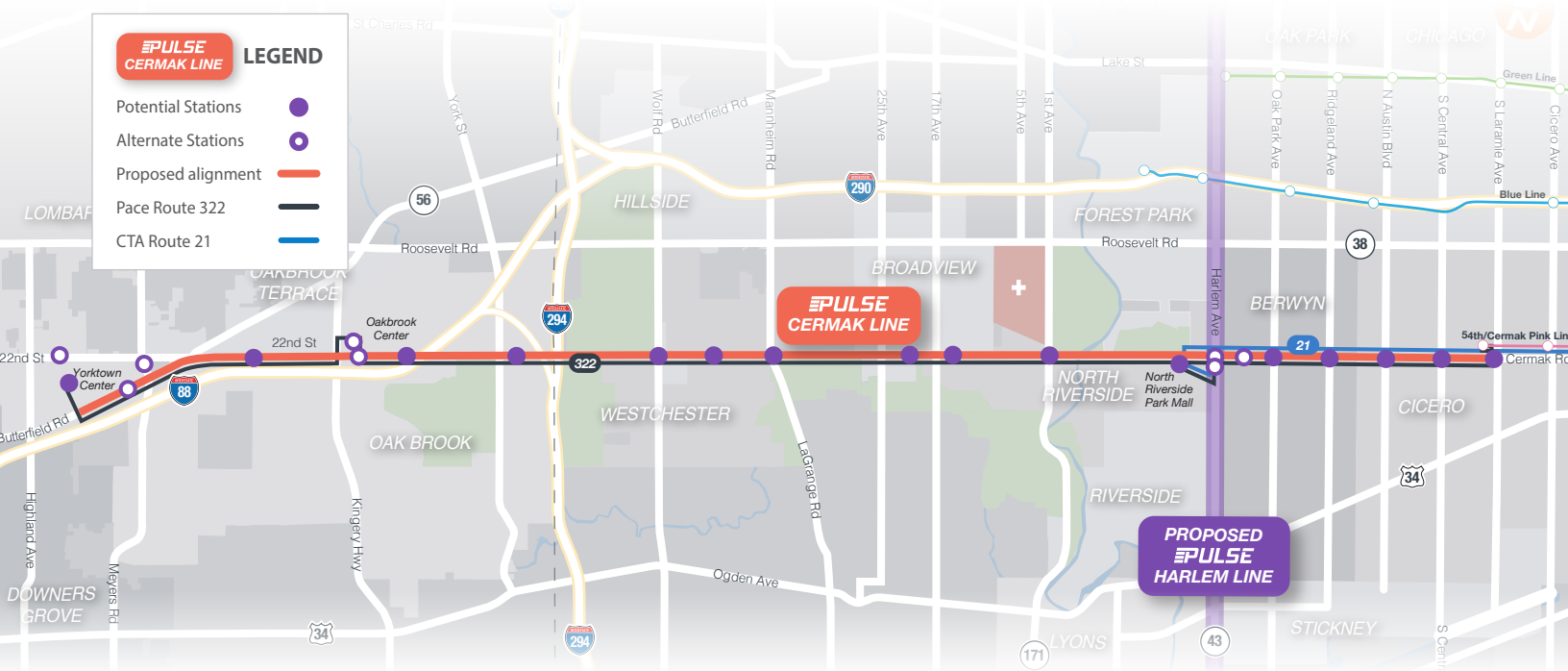
With the help of local stakeholders, work is underway to define the routing and stations for the Pulse Cermak Line. Pace created a Corridor Advisory Group (CAG) consisting of local leaders, municipal staff, community groups, businesses, schools, and transportation officials to provide feedback to the project team. Pace met with the CAG in early December and presented information on existing conditions, transit needs, and potential Pulse service solutions in the project corridor. The project team received valuable input from CAG members including insights on potential station locations, recommendations for service routing, guidance on transit needs in the area, and input on potential new CAG members.



**SIGN UP FOR CERMAK LINE UPDATES AT**  
**PaceBus.com/Pulse**

## What's Next?

The project team will compile input from the CAG to refine the corridor project limits and select preliminary station locations. A second CAG meeting will be held in early 2024 to present this information and gather further feedback. Public meetings will be held in future phases of the project.



The Cermak Line corridor encompasses portions of Cermak Road, 22nd Street, and Butterfield Road and serves 10 communities within Cook and DuPage counties.

# Pulse 95th Street Line Moves to the Next Phase

The Pulse 95th Street Line is making progress with the goal of enhancing connectivity between the CTA Red Line 95th/Dan Ryan Station in Chicago and Moraine Valley Community College in Palos Hills. This corridor is a vital link for the communities of Palos Hills, Bridgeview, Chicago Ridge, Oak Lawn, Evergreen Park, and Chicago. The project has received Federal Transit Administration approval of the environmental review, marking Pace's commitment to delivering services that meet the needs of the community with minimal environmental impacts. The project team will now focus on final design of the stations and associated improvements, which will be followed by construction. Final design and construction of the project is fully funded thanks to a federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) grant awarded in 2021.

While the Pulse 95th Street Line moves toward implementation, Pace is already improving traffic signals to give buses priority at key intersections on 95th Street between Western Avenue and Roberts Road. In spring 2024, Pace will finish implementing TSP technology to extend green lights for buses, allowing buses to efficiently navigate through these intersections and remain on schedule. Additional intersections are planned for TSP to cover the entire 95th Pulse Corridor by 2025.

Pace's goal is to launch the Pulse 95th Street Line in 2027.

# DESIGNING THE Pulse Halsted Line

Engineering design for the Pulse Halsted Line will begin in 2024, with construction anticipated in 2025. The Halsted Line has some unique features that will make your commute a breeze, including bus priority treatments such as dedicated bus lanes in some of the most congested parts of the corridor. In addition, "queue jumps" at congested intersections will allow buses to bypass traffic and keep riders on schedule with minimal impacts to general vehicular traffic.

During the design phase, the project team will refine these bus priority treatments as well as Pulse stations. In the meantime, TSP technology is being installed at key intersections to help buses stay on schedule.

Construction is anticipated to begin in 2025 with the goal of launching the Pulse Halsted Line by 2027.

Riders on the Pulse Halsted Line who travel to or through the Harvey Transportation Center will see even further improvement with completion of a new facility. The vision for the new center is to better integrate buses and Metra trains for a unified, modern multimodal transportation center. The project is currently in the design stage.

# Making Big Moves in 2024

***Pulse isn't the only improvement coming to transit! Pace's Board of Directors has greenlit transformative initiatives to enhance suburban transportation services.***

» The Rideshare Access Program (RAP) will offer ADA paratransit customers in the six-county region the option to use rideshare services alongside dedicated ADA Paratransit services. The program would offer a subsidy of up to \$30 per trip for customers.

» Pace has kicked off its first-ever systemwide network revitalization effort, known as ReVision. The initiative will analyze Pace's entire system and seek opportunities to better align services to our customers' needs. ReVision will provide and explore the potential to harness technology and new or enhanced mobility solutions.

» The Round Lake Area On Demand now has an expanded service zone to provide additional flexible weekday service to a larger portion of western Lake County. The expansion, which took effect August 28, addresses recent significant population growth and improves connections to Metra and major community destinations.

[Learn more at PaceBus.com/route/on-demand-round-lake.](https://www.pacebus.com/route/on-demand-round-lake)

» An update to Pace's Transit Supportive Guidelines, originally released in 2013, is forthcoming with special attention to Pulse service. With the continued buildout of the Pulse network, the update informs jurisdictions and transportation partners on how best to work with Pace to prepare for Pulse service on corridors in their communities. Once complete, the Pulse update will be available at [PaceBus.com/project/transit-supportive-guidelines](https://www.pacebus.com/project/transit-supportive-guidelines).



The **Pulse Halsted Line** is made possible with the help of funding from a federal Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant, an *Invest in Cook* grant from Cook County, and a grant from the federal Congestion Relief Program (CRP). **Pace thanks our federal and regional partners for their continued support!**

**LEARN MORE ABOUT THE HARVEY TRANSPORTATION CENTER PROJECT AT**

[PaceBus.com/project/harvey-transportation-center](https://www.pacebus.com/project/harvey-transportation-center)

Stay in touch with all things Pulse at [PaceBus.com/Pulse](https://www.pacebus.com/Pulse)