



TONI PRECKWINKLE

PRESIDENT

**Cook County Board
of Commissioners**

TARA STAMPS
1st District

DENNIS DEER
2nd District

BILL LOWRY
3rd District

STANLEY MOORE
4th District

MONICA GORDON
5th District

DONNA MILLER
6th District

ALMA E. ANAYA
7th District

ANTHONY QUEZADA
8th District

MAGGIE TREVOR
9th District

BRIDGET GAINER
10th District

JOHN P. DALEY
11th District

BRIDGET DEGNEN
12th District

JOSINA MORITA
13th District

SCOTT R. BRITTON
14th District

KEVIN B. MORRISON
15th District

FRANK AGUILAR
16th District

SEAN M. MORRISON
17th District

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND HIGHWAYS

JENNIFER "SIS" KILLEN, P.E., PTOE

SUPERINTENDENT

69 West Washington Street, 24th Floor • Chicago, Illinois 60602 • (312) 603-1601

April 4, 2024

Honorable Sean Casten
United States Congressman
2440 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Pace's Request for FY25 Community Project Funding for signal upgrades on Harlem Avenue

Dear Congressman Casten:

I write to support Pace's request for FY25 Community Project Funding to implement transit signal priority on Harlem Avenue between Ogden Avenue and 95th Street, one of the corridors with the heaviest bus ridership in Cook County. The requested funding would pay for implementation of transit signal priority (TSP) equipment at 30 traffic signals on Harlem Avenue.

TSP creates shorter travel times for bus riders because it allows buses to communicate with traffic signals to shorten red lights and lengthen green lights for buses and makes transit more reliable and more attractive by giving buses an advantage over regular auto traffic. The implementation of TSP can create immediate benefits to Pace Route 307 and 386 riders at a modest cost, while also facilitating potential future development of full-fledged Pulse rapid transit service.

When policymakers invest in public transportation, it creates greater incentives for commuters to use transit, leading to many societal benefits--reduced traffic congestion, improved air quality, job access for those most in need, and economic development for local businesses. Pace's proposed investment in this corridor would also benefit historically disadvantaged communities in Cook County, aligning with the Biden Administration's Justice40 initiative.

Thank you for your consideration of this request from Pace. If you have questions, please contact Jesse Elam of the Strategic Planning and Policy Bureau at Jesse.Elam@cookcountyil.gov or (312) 603-1652.

Sincerely,

Jennifer (Sis) Killen, P.E., PTOE
Superintendent
Department of Transportation and Highways
Cook County, Illinois