

Capital Program

 pace
means
efficiency

2024 | Fall Update



PACE AT 40: DOLLARS AND SENSE

What does efficiency mean to us – a regional and national mobility leader celebrating 40 years of award-winning service – as public transit faces a worrisome financial future?

Efficiency means skillfully operating on a historically lean budget.

It means applying ever-evolving knowledge, innovation, and expertise to implement technologies and processes that make the most of our singular agency's time, talents, resources, and plans.

It means envisioning public transit that readily responds to new and return riders throughout the region with modern infrastructure, increased service frequency, and expanded availability.

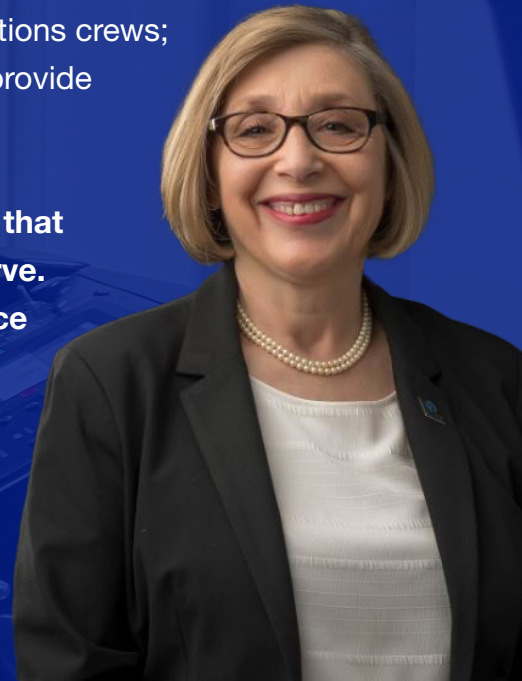
Efficiency means understanding factors that matter most to riders today – access, cost, and safety among them – while having the courage to envision a fuel-free future informed by research and projects built with taxpayer dollars.

Lastly, but no less important, it means being grateful for the populations we serve and on whose support we rely: our diverse riders and communities; staff, maintenance teams, and operations crews; and the local, state, and federal leaders who help provide transit funding that enhances lives.

At 40, one of the many lessons we've learned is that efficiency means a lot to us and to those we serve. In the following pages, discover how we embrace this lesson as our next era begins.

Melinda J Metzger

Melinda J. Metzger, Executive Director



Celebrating Four Decades of Evolution and Efficiency

1984-1994

Founding & Early Years

Acquiring new facilities and new buses.

1995-2006

Expansion & Innovation

Becomes the nation's largest provider of ADA Paratransit services.

2007-2020

Modernization & Growth

Recordbreaking Bus-on-Shoulder ridership and Rebuild Illinois funding for modernization.

2021-2024

Strategic Vision & Leadership

Melinda Metzger becomes the agency's first female Executive Director.
Introduction of battery electric buses and paratransit vehicles.



THE CAPITAL PROGRAM AND EFFICIENCY

Pace's Capital Program is a set of projects designed to meet the needs of the people of northeastern Illinois now and into the future by expanding service, improving connections, reducing our carbon footprint, and strengthening our infrastructure and technology.

Our focus on efficiency is enabling us to fund projects and initiatives that are exceeding riders' expectations and improving the entire region.



Modernized facilities



More responsive transit modes



State-of-the-art vehicles



Technology-based trip planning

FALL HIGHLIGHTS

Quality public transit is crucial to community well-being and economic vitality. Our work as an independent agency has far-reaching and lasting positive impacts.

1 Bolingbrook Park-n-Ride
SOUTHWEST
Supporting the continued growth of Bus-on-Shoulder ridership.

2 Northwest Transportation Center
NORTHWEST
Increasing efficiency and cost savings. Operators can safely drop off ADA Paratransit passengers and continue timely operations.

3 Pulse Dempster Line
NORTH & NORTHWEST
Enabling faster and more frequent rides, and service that better handles surges in weekend ridership.

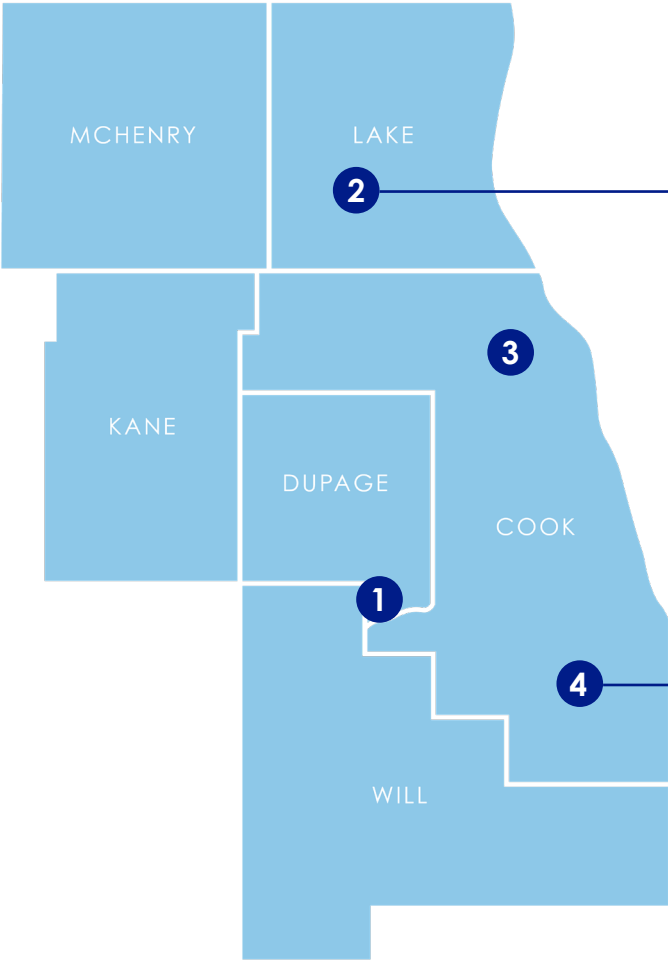
4 Markham South Campus
SOUTH
Spurring economic development through new construction, modernized operations, and expanded workforce training.

ADA Rideshare Access Program (RAP)

SYSTEMWIDE

Decreasing costs for ADA Paratransit riders and increasing convenience with a new mobility option.







***ReVision* is an opportunity to rethink our network of services and build on the principles of accessibility, equity, and productivity defined in the *Driving Innovation* strategic vision plan.**

Combining comprehensive technical analysis and ongoing conversations with communities about their transit priorities, the study will review and reimagine where and how often Pace routes should run, and what types of service are appropriate for the region.



“ Pace provides public transportation with a focus on quality, efficiency, innovation, and fiscal responsibility.”

— COLETTE THOMAS GORDON
Pace Chief Internal Auditor

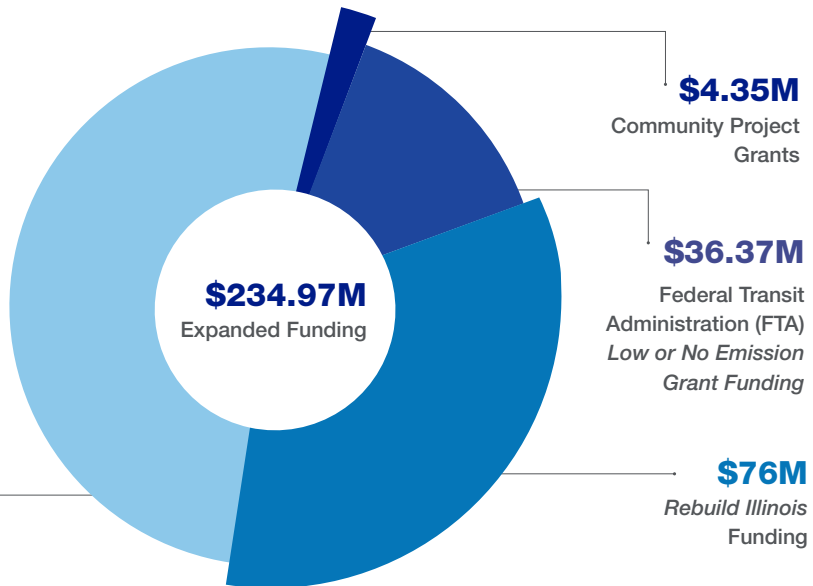


FUNDING PROGRESS

Pace continuously reviews where and how its funding is directed to maintain a transit network that is efficient and in a state of good repair, and to ensure riders and communities benefit the most from spending and allocations.

Initial funding in 2024 totaled **\$118.46M**, with major allocations for facilities, stations, communications, and rolling stock. Federal, congressional, and state funding that support efficient improvements has grown **~\$116M**.

\$118.46M
Initial Funding

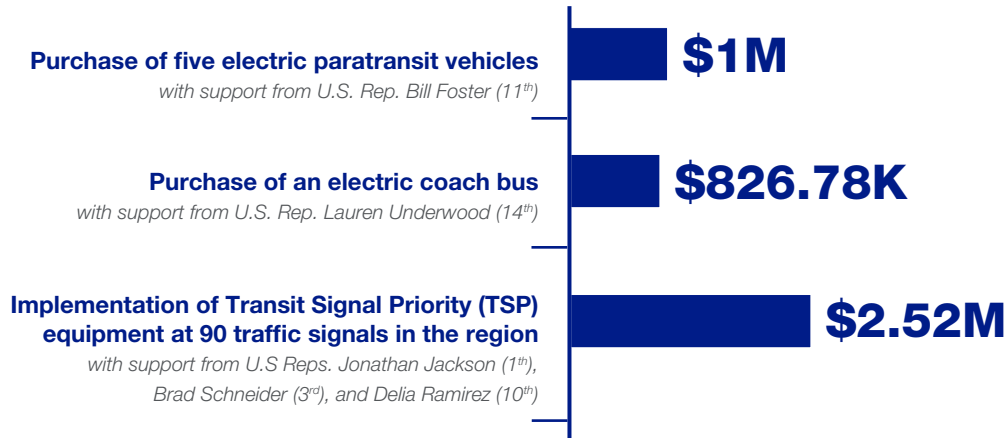


In Fiscal Year 2025, design and build projects at North Division (Phases 1 and 2) and Harvey Transportation Center will continue. New funding is expected to continue supporting River Division electrification efforts. The complete and final 2025 budget is expected to be approved in November 2024.

Expanded Funding: A Closer Look

Community Project Grants

Five Community Project Funding federal grants, signed into law by President Biden in March and supported by multiple members of the northeastern Illinois Congressional delegation, assist the *Project Zero* initiative and Pulse program.



Rebuild Illinois

Rebuild Illinois capital funding totaling **\$75.9 million** was reprogrammed this past spring to support and expand *Project Zero* electrification efforts at River Division in Elgin.

Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Low or No Emission Grant Funding

The FTA grant in July of **\$30.9 million**, plus Pace's matching funds of **\$5.46M**, helps advance our *Project Zero* initiative to transition all fixed-route buses to zero emissions.

IMPACTS

Pace values *Accessibility, Safety, Efficiency, Equity,* and *Environmental Responsibility,* and our partnerships with leaders and communities throughout northeastern Illinois help bring those values to life.

We're excited to feature the following individuals as they speak about our most recent collaborative efforts and celebrate the positive impact that the Capital Program is having on the region's transit network.



MARY ALEXANDER-BASTA

Mayor, Bolingbrook

“**Bolingbrook consistently remains a growing community. We pride ourselves on our diversity and accessibility, and Pace continues to reinforce those values, making it accessible to all.**”

A More Comfortable Wait

Mayor Alexander-Basta’s support on the construction of a new building at one of our most successful services – the I-55 Bus-on-Shoulder – has been vital to the project’s success.

When complete, the facility will include a waiting area and amenities that protect waiting riders from inclement weather, and will be fully accessible to riders of all abilities.

The improvements come in addition to recent upgrades that include additional parking spots and an electronic bus tracking sign.



The Power of Partnerships

State Sen. Murphy joined a recent Pace event to celebrate how collaboration among transit agencies is reducing congestion and strengthening connections between communities on the Pulse Dempster Line through faster bus service, accessible trip information, and modern amenities.

Murphy notes the Pulse program provides reliable, safe, economical, environmentally friendly, and comfortable movement from suburb to suburb or to the airport. Such efficient and innovative service is the goal of our partnerships with other agencies and our investments in infrastructure.

The Dempster Line improvements join a number of options focused on this goal, including the reservation-based, self-service VanGo and Feeder Vanpool programs; Transit, an easy-to-use trip planning app; and rideshare programs like the DuPage Access Program.

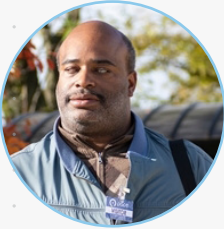


LAURA MURPHY

Illinois State Senator

“ I look forward to watching how these latest Pulse line improvements encourage more suburbanites to use public transit.”





JEMAL POWELL

*Pace Citizens Advisory Board (CAB)
Suburban ADA Advisory Committee Member*

“ **At 40,
Pace remains
an inspiring
leader in
developing
innovative,
accessible
transit for all.**”

The Value of Access

A longtime Pace rider-advocate, CAB Member Powell helps us determine where advances in technology and engineering can improve service, whether it’s to and from Chicago or between any of the many suburbs in our six-county region where people work, play, and live.

The groundbreaking of our newest ADA Paratransit transfer facility in Schaumburg demonstrates our ongoing commitment to ensuring all riders can access efficient public transit and state-of-the-art facilities where they feel safe and comfortable between rides.



A Supported Workforce

State Rep. Davis joined us at the July ribbon cutting for a new administrative facility in Markham, marking a significant milestone in modernizing Pace operations, bolstering our south suburban workforce, and enhancing central Safety and Training.

This latest investment, which includes the introduction of a bus operator training course, has spurred economic development through job creation and, by supporting Pace service in Markham, will improve access to employment for south suburban communities.

The \$40 million campus project was made possible by *Rebuild Illinois* and additional state funds, as well as the Federal Transit Administration, RTA, and Pace capital funds.



WILL DAVIS

Illinois State Representative

“With investments that support public transit’s operational efficiency as well as economic growth and jobs, Pace is a vital resource for our region.”



EFFICIENCY TAKEAWAYS

As ridership has grown since 2020, we've maintained efficiency, added new selected fixed-route services, and expanded access to ADA Paratransit with technology upgrades and shared ride partnerships.

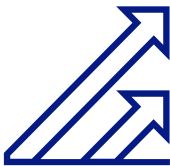


Overall Ridership Growth = Rebounding Weekday Travel

> 2 million
total trips in
September 2024
highest number
since 2020

> 63,000 average
weekday fixed-
route trips
a 10.8% year-to-
year increase from
September 2023

> 89,500 average
weekday trips on
all services
a 14% increase
from September 2023

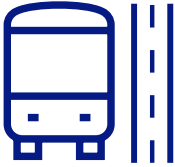


Overall Ridership Increase = Adding Fixed-Route Service

**Expanded
weekend
service**
*(began in June for
selected routes)*

Up 23% from
July 2023 to
July 2024

Up 17% from
September 2023 to
September 2024



Bus-on-Shoulder Use = Signs of Recovery and Expansion

~**600%** ridership
increase between
2011 and 2019

Ridership
**recovering
faster** than many
other fixed-route
services

Addition in August
of **28 weekday
trips** for I-55
*(service brings total
weekday trips to 81)*



ADA Paratransit Demand = Launching New Partnerships

~**20,000** weekday
reservations
*(a five-year
ridership high)*

The **Rideshare Access Program** (RAP)
launched with UBER and UZURV | The
Adaptive Transportation Network Company

- **5,524** customers registered
- **218,012** trips provided from March
(launch) to August 2024



“ Pace’s commitment to public transit for all has invigorated communities and lives for 40 years. We look forward to serving riders for decades to come.”

RICK KWASNESKI
Pace Chairman



Pace is an award-winning agency – most recently as the recipient of the Center for Digital Government (CDG) **GovTech Special District Experience Award** recognizing our Mobility as a Service (MaaS) pilot, and a **2024 Distinguished Budget Presentation Award** from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA).



Pace has previously received awards in 2024 from these organizations:



[PaceBus.com](https://www.pacebus.com)