



**Regional
Transportation
Authority**

For immediate release

DATE: September 15, 2008

RTA RECOMMENDS FUNDING FOR 43 TRANSIT PROJECTS THROUGHOUT THE REGION

Public comment sought before RTA Board adoption in October

Chicago – The Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) presented to its Board today 43 planning, operating, and capital projects that are recommended for funding. RTA is moving to allocate over \$18 million in federal, state and RTA funding to support innovative projects that will increase transit usage, provide multi-modal connections, improve efficiency and effectiveness of local transit, improve access to jobs, and help to increase mobility for our region’s seniors, people with disabilities and the general public.

Communities, counties, and transportation providers were invited to apply for grants through four planning programs. Out of 62 of the proposals submitted, 43 are being recommended for funding. Applicants are also required to provide a certain percentage of the total project cost. The programs are designed to implement legislative mandates approved in January for the RTA and support the updated Moving Beyond Congestion strategic plan.

“The RTA is providing leadership in the region by moving forward with innovative transit projects that will help reduce congestion and improve our air quality while offering transportation choices throughout our region,” said Steve Schlickman, RTA Executive Director. “We are working with available resources to manage these funding programs to make the greatest impact in improving transit. At the same time, we are working to secure a sufficient capital program with Illinois lawmakers,” he added.

“To launch these proposed projects, we simultaneously announced separate programs in an effort to allocate funds in an organized and coordinated fashion,” commented Leanne Redden, Senior Deputy Executive Director of Planning and Regional Programs. “This helps communities and transportation providers work together to implement projects that improve mobility and access,” she said.

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A public comment period is now underway through October 10 and will be incorporated into the final report for the RTA Board of Directors to approve on October 23. Approval of the program will allow the Chicago Transit Authority, Metra and Pace to incorporate those projects into their 2009 budgets. The RTA Board will then consider adoption of the 2009 regional transit budget on December 18.

Written comments may be mailed, faxed, e-mailed or delivered through 4:00 p.m. by Friday, October 10, 2008, to:

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About the RTA: The RTA provides financial oversight, funding and regional planning for the three public transit operations 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.