



**Regional
Transportation
Authority**

For immediate release

DATE: February 19, 2009

CONTACT: Diane Palmer, Director of Communications, RTA
Office: 312-913-3282 Cell: 312-907-6902

**THE RTA BOARD APPROVES UPCOMING FUNDING
PROGRAMS CALL FOR PROJECTS**

*Applicants may apply for planning, operating, and capital transit projects
beginning on April 8*

CHICAGO – The Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) Board announced at today’s board meeting approval for the upcoming RTA Funding Programs Call for Projects to begin on April 8, 2009. These programs provide financial support for planning, operating, and capital transit projects.

The Call for Projects will allow potential applicants an opportunity to pitch ideas for projects that are innovative and will increase transit usage, improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the region’s current transit system, provide for better mobility for seniors and people with disabilities, or improve job access.

“These Funding Programs are a tool in which we leverage RTA funds with federal, state, and local funds to directly address and advance the vision and goals of the RTA Strategic Plan,” said Leanne Redden, Senior Deputy Executive Director of Planning and Regional Programs. “We are looking for new and innovative projects that are generated at the local level and will improve transportation options for the northeast Illinois region and its residents.”

In October 2008, the RTA Board approved 43 projects through these funding programs totaling approximately \$30 million and the RTA contributed 7 percent, or \$2.2 million, to the funding total. Once implemented, those projects will offer a plethora of transit benefits to applicants through transit-oriented development and local transit improvement plans, introduction of services and capital improvements.

The RTA Funding Programs webpage accessible at www.rtachicago.com/programs provides general background information and can be used by applicants to gain a better understanding of the programs.

--- More ---

ABOUT THE PROGRAMS

All projects funded through the following programs are consistent with the legislative mandates and the RTA's updated strategic plan. The programs range from planning studies and initiatives to transit operating and capital projects.

Community Planning Program

The Community Planning Program is available to municipalities to create plans for local station area/transit-oriented development (TOD), local transit improvement, TOD guidelines, local coordinated paratransit plans and detailed implementation studies. More information regarding the Community Planning Program can be found at www.rtachicago.com/cp .

Subregional Planning Program

The Subregional Planning Program is available to Counties, Townships, Councils of Mayors, the City of Chicago, and the CTA, Metra, and Pace. Eligible planning projects include Subregional and market focused plans such as transit service restructuring studies or efforts focused on developing specific market opportunities; countywide or Subregional transit improvement studies, transit-oriented development studies and paratransit studies. More information regarding the Subregional Planning Program can be found at www.rtachicago.com/srp .

Innovation, Coordination, and Enhancement (ICE) Program

The ICE program is available to local governments, transportation agencies, and the CTA, Metra and Pace. The program funds operating and capital projects that enhance the coordination and integration of public transit, or that develop or implement innovations to improve the quality and delivery of public transportation. More information regarding the ICE Program can be found at www.rtachicago.com/ice.

Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) / New Freedom (NF) Program

The JARC/NF program is available to local governments, transportation agencies, and the CTA, Metra and Pace for operating and capital projects derived from the RTA Coordinated Public Transit Human Services Transportation Plan (HSTP) that enhance mobility for seniors, people with disabilities, and low income populations, address reverse commute markets and /or provide access to jobs. More information regarding the JARC/NF Program can be found at www.rtachicago.com/jarcnf .

###

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.