



Comprehensive Strategic Regional Transportation Plan

Who are we?

- The Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) provides financial oversight and regional planning for Northeastern Illinois' public transportation operators, the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA), Metra Commuter Rail, and Pace Suburban Bus. The RTA's mission is to ensure financially sound, comprehensive, coordinated public transportation for the Northeastern Illinois region.
- The CTA, Metra and Pace provide approximately 600 million transit rides per year.

What are we doing?

- The RTA, the CTA, Metra and Pace are launching a comprehensive regional strategic planning effort. This effort will evaluate how public transportation will best fit as a component of a larger transportation network that serves our region's travel needs.
- This effort will include bold visioning and strategic planning that will shape how we live, work, play and move around our region for the next decade and beyond.
- The strategic plan will both identify the needs to preserve the existing transit system and determine how new transit investments can improve the region's transportation system.

Why are we doing this?

- Transit is a critical element in promoting economic development and access to jobs, alleviating the congestion that threatens our region with gridlock, and mitigating the isolation otherwise faced by our most vulnerable citizens.
- We are facing major challenges in the near term and have an opportunity to impact and support the future development of our region.
- We have new leadership at the RTA that has challenged us to think creatively about the future and how we improve transit service in the region.
- Our riders, and taxpayers in general, deserve to know that we are working to provide them with the best possible system in the safest and most cost-effective manner.

How will we accomplish this?

- The RTA, the CTA, Metra and Pace, will lead the effort, supported by a specialized consultant team. This will be done in cooperation with the General Assembly, and other state, regional and local leaders, as well as community and business groups.
- Focus areas:
 - **Develop a vision** of how transit can best serve the region as an integrated part of the overall transportation system
 - **Comprehensively assess our current situation and future trends**
 - **Develop and evaluate options for our future**, including service delivery and funding
 - **Provide for extensive community and public input**
- Schedule: Beginning in late January 2006, with a Strategic Plan prepared in Fall 2006, and follow-on work in Spring 2007.