



550 West Algonquin Road, Arlington Heights, Illinois 60005-4412 (847) 364-8130

[www.pacebus.com](http://www.pacebus.com)

October, 2013

To our stakeholders—the riders, residents and officials of northeastern Illinois:

Enclosed you will find a pamphlet summarizing the 2014 Pace Suburban Bus budget.

The past year has been a busy one at Pace as we worked to continue past progress, implement major projects and lay the groundwork for other initiatives on the horizon. Once again, we can proudly say that we worked hard to control costs and maximize efficiency while providing safe, effective service throughout northeastern Illinois. Our austerity, combined with a growing, robust local economy, leads to a very stable budget outlook for 2014. The budget is balanced and does not contain fare increases or service reductions.

Looking back at 2013, Pace and CTA launched the Ventra™ open fare payment system, replacing the existing nearly 20 year old magnetic stripe and smart card systems. Ventra provides customers with a number of benefits, including online and telephone access to account management, greater security in the event of a lost or stolen card and the ability to pay with contactless debit and credit cards. Ventra offers a number of conveniences, including increasing the number of suburban locations at which one can buy Pace passes tenfold, from 50 to a network that will eventually reach 500 in the suburbs and over 2,000 throughout the region.

In May, Pace significantly expanded service levels on routes 755 and 855—the two routes comprising the Bus On Shoulder Pilot Project. The additional service included new trips during the morning and evening rush hours along with all-new midday and later evening service to offer more convenience and travel flexibility to riders. The later evening service included a Route 755 trip to augment service to some Metra Heritage Corridor Line stations. In August, the first phase of a multiyear project to develop a federally-funded express service corridor on Interstate 90—the Jane Addams Tollway—began with expanded service on existing routes traveling between Rosemont, Schaumburg and the Prairie Stone development in Hoffman Estates, including an all-new park-n-ride lot near the Sears Centre. Service restructuring projects modified existing bus routes, continuing the agency's multiyear effort to realign service to meet the growing and changing needs of the region while improving efficiency. Pace worked collaboratively with CTA on the Red Line South reconstruction project in an effort to minimize inconvenience for customers. These included ensuring direct connections to shuttle buses at the 95th/Dan Ryan Terminal and the development of two temporary Pace express routes providing direct service from Harvey and Blue Island to the CTA Roosevelt station to bypass the area of construction.

The stability we project on our Suburban Services budget also extends to the Regional ADA Paratransit operating budget. No fare increases or service changes are proposed at this time to balance the budget. Ridership continues to grow, with an estimated total ridership on all Pace service in excess of 39 million in 2014. We project continued success in this area, with 2.7% growth on fixed route, vanpool and dial-a-ride services, and 4.9% ridership growth for regional ADA paratransit.

Pace's capital program totals \$57.3 million for 2014, with over \$32 million of that dedicated to the purchase of new buses. In addition, Pace will issue \$12 million in capital bond funds to convert the South Division Garage to a compressed natural gas (CNG) facility. We anticipate lower operating costs and are excited to take this step forward in implementing green technology. Other capital funds are dedicated to upgrading fixed facilities and continued investment in technology.

Pace will hold 13 required public hearings discussing the proposed 2014 budget: one in each of the collar counties, four in Chicago, and four in suburban Cook County. You can find a list of the public hearings in the budget pamphlet. I welcome your input and feedback throughout our budget process and beyond. If you have any questions or concerns on the 2014 Pace budget, please contact Rocky Donahue, Deputy Executive Director, External Relations, at (847) 228-4226.

Sincerely,

Richard A. Kwasneski  
Chairman

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Richard A. Kwasneski, Chairman**

Christopher S. Canning Kyle R. Hastings Al Larson Thomas D. Marcucci Frank C. Mitchell Alan P. Nowaczyk  
Jeffery D. Schielke Aaron T. Shepley Bradley A. Stephens Karen Tamley Terry R. Wells Richard Welton

**Thomas J. Ross**  
**Executive Director**