



# RTA

## Does That



### Building Transit Communities:

Over the past 15 years, the RTA has leveraged federal, state, local and its own dollars to fund 215 public transit-related projects totaling more than \$122 million throughout the six-county region. These projects, from the Joliet Transportation Center to the way-finding signs throughout the region, help riders move easily between CTA and Metra.

### Providing Accessibility:

The RTA manages the ADA Paratransit Certification Program that serves individuals with disabilities. More than 15,000 applications are received each year and there are more than 53,000 eligible customers across the region.

The RTA's Travel Training programs serve more than 1,500 older adults and people with disabilities each year, teaching them how to use public transportation.

[www.rtachicago.org](http://www.rtachicago.org)

### Improving Your Commute:

The RTA's work on Transit Signal Priority technology gives buses a little extra green time or a little less red time at traffic signals to reduce the time they are stopped at intersections.

The RTA's allocation of \$1.2 million in grant dollars, combined with IDOT support, made Pace's Bus on Shoulder program a reality. This program allows Pace Express buses to use inside shoulders to bypass congestion on I-55. The program has substantially reduced travel times, improved on-time performance and increased ridership.

### Answering Your Questions:

The RTA Trip Planner, at [www.rtachicago.org](http://www.rtachicago.org), provides side-by-side comparisons of itineraries using transit, driving, biking and walking. The Trip Planner also provides travel alerts tied to a specific itinerary.

The RTA's Travel Information Center answers 5.3 million calls a year addressing questions about CTA, Metra and Pace. Travelers can reach the Center by dialing 836-7000 from any area code in the region.

The RTA's Customer Service Center serves over 550,000 individuals with disabilities and older adults in the region enrolled in Reduced Fare and Ride Free programs.

### Protecting Your Environment:

The transit system keeps 6.7 million metric tons of carbon from being emitted annually. That's equal to taking a million cars off the road. The RTA created the Chicago Regional Green Transit Plan to quantify the environmental benefits of public transit.

**Auditing:** The RTA performs financial, performance, operational and safety audits of CTA, Metra and Pace.

### Maintaining Your Transit System:

The RTA oversees \$1.6 billion worth of ongoing capital projects each year, ensuring they are on schedule and within budget.

### Ensuring Financial Accountability:

The RTA reviews the annual budgets for CTA, Metra and Pace to ensure they are balanced and consistent with long-range plans.

The RTA monitors and reports on how well each agency performs against the approved budget, looking at revenue collected and operating expenses.

### Advocating for You:

The RTA is the driving force behind the Getting America to Work program, which advocates for federal funding necessary to bring the country's public transit system to a state of good repair.

The RTA fights sales tax avoidance scams that ultimately cost riders tens of millions of dollars each year.



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# The RTA's Work in Your Area:

The RTA Mapping and Statistics (RTAMS) website provides planning, financial and transit information for the public at [www.rtams.org](http://www.rtams.org).

## McHenry Village of Prairie Grove

The RTA provided \$95,000 in funding in addition to staff time to help create the Prairie Grove Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Plan and subsequent zoning code revision. The Plan focuses on transit and TOD opportunities in anticipation of a new station that is part of Metra's proposed extension of the Union Pacific Northwest Line. The Plan is the winner of a 2013 award by the Illinois Chapter of the American Planning Association.

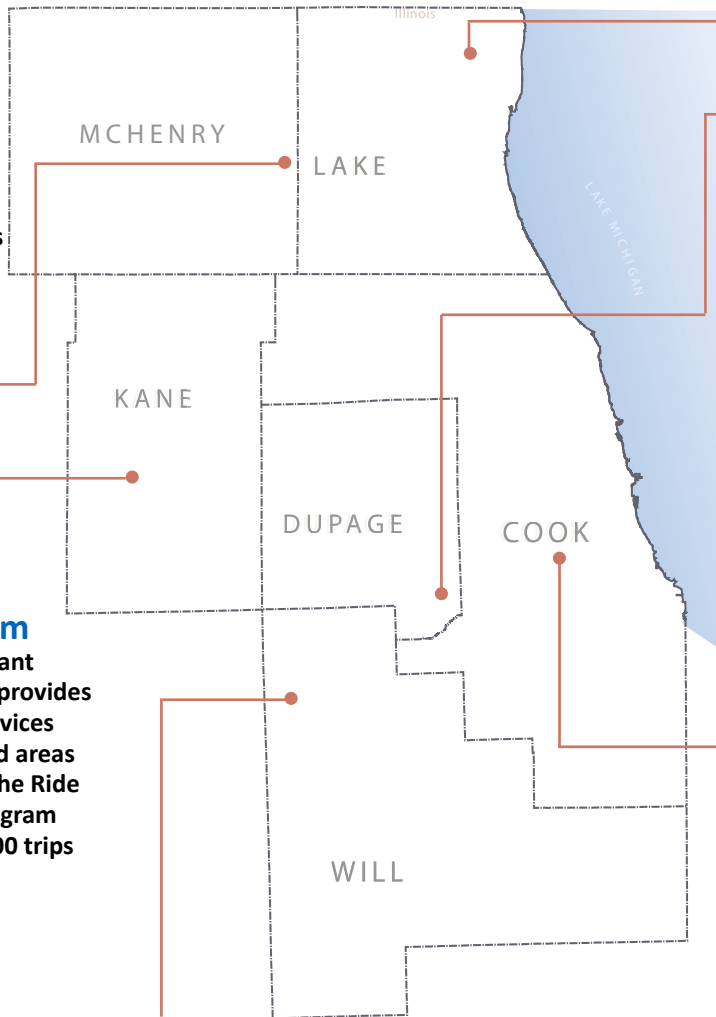
## Kane Ride in Kane Paratransit Program

A \$12.2 million federal grant administered by the RTA provides additional paratransit services to previously underserved areas in Kane County through the Ride in Kane program. The program provides more than 12,000 trips per month.

## Joliet Intermodal Transportation Center Plan

The RTA provided \$100,000 in grant funding to complete the Joliet Intermodal Transportation Center Plan. The plan provided recommendations on improving and connecting different modes of public transportation and modernizing the existing station. The first phase of the project broke ground in 2012 and is slated to be completed in the fall of 2015.

# RTA'S Regional Projects



## Lake Metra Sunrise Express

The RTA allocated a \$430,000 federal grant, and Metra matched that amount, to help fund the operating costs of a new commuter train from Chicago to Waukegan each weekday. Metra continues to fund this popular Union Pacific North Line service, known as the "Sunrise Express," which now averages about 8,000 trips per month.

## DuPage DuPage County Transit Plan Update:

The RTA allocated \$50,000 in grant funds to update the County's 2002 Transit Plan in 2011. The new plan includes a phased implementation of various transit-related projects over a 20 year period. In addition, the RTA, DuPage County and the DuPage Mayors and Managers Conference, in collaboration with Metra and Pace, plan to utilize grant dollars to implement a strategic marketing plan to promote transit in DuPage County.

## Cook Red Line South Reconstruction Project

The RTA and IDOT administered a \$425 million capital grant for the Dan Ryan Track and Station Renewal project that was completed in October, 2013. RTA staff assisted in tracking this project for the CTA and provided design and specification reviews to improve the project and lower the cost by several million dollars. The RTA and IDOT each spent \$300 thousand to reduce the chance of delays and ensure that the project was completed on time.