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TransIt
CHICAGO

CHICAGO TRANSIT AUTHORITY

The Chicago Transit Authority operates the second largest public transportation system in the United States. On an average weekday, 1.5 million rides are taken on CTA. CTA's service area includes Chicago and 38 suburbs, with a population of approximately 3.7 million.

CTA has 2,064 buses that operate over 138 routes and 2,020 route miles. Buses make over 24,000 trips a day and serve 12,809 posted bus stops.

On the rapid transit system, CTA's 1,134 rapid transit cars operate over six routes and 236 miles of track. (A seventh route, the Green Line, is under reconstruction and will reopen in 1996.) CTA trains make about 2,000 trips each day and serve 117 stations.

Chicago is one of the few cities in the world that has rapid transit service to two major airports. CTA's Blue Line 'L' can take riders to O'Hare International Airport in 35 to 40 minutes from stations in the Dearborn subway downtown.

Orange Line trains, which operate downtown on the inner Loop 'L' structure, make trips to Midway Airport in about 30 minutes. Riders traveling from one airport to the other can change trains without paying any extra fare at the Clark/Lake station.

CTA also provides around-the-clock service on many of its routes. In the late night and early morning hours, major rapid transit routes and many of CTA's bus routes offer "Night Owl" service, much of it with connecting schedules and routing.

Chicago Transit Authority is an independent governmental agency created by state legislation. CTA began operating on Oct. 1, 1947, after it acquired the properties of the Chicago Rapid Transit Company and the Chicago Surface Lines. On Oct. 1, 1952, CTA became the sole operator of Chicago transit when it purchased the Chicago Motor Coach system.

The governing arm of CTA is the Chicago Transit Board. The board consists of seven members, four appointed by the mayor of Chicago and three by the governor

of Illinois. The mayor's appointees are subject to the approval of the governor and the Chicago City Council; the governor's appointees are subject to the approval of the mayor and the Illinois State Senate. CTA is directed by Robert Belcaster, president, who was appointed by Mayor Richard M. Daley in 1992.

CTA generates revenue from farebox collections and also receives supplemental funding for operating expenses from the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA).

The RTA was established in 1974 to oversee local transportation operators in the six-county Chicago metropolitan area. Illinois state law requires the three RTA service boards – CTA, Metra, the Chicago-area commuter railroad system, and Pace, the suburban bus system – to recover collectively at least 50% of operating costs from farebox and other system revenues. RTA provides public funding for the agencies' remaining operating expenses.

CTA FACTS AT A GLANCE

Area served by CTA	Chicago and 38 suburbs
Service population	3.7 million (based on 1990 census)

1995 Operating budget	\$773,001,000
1995 Capital budget	\$405,260,000

Ridership (unlinked trips, based on 1994 fiscal year)

Average weekday

Bus	1.1 million
Rail	0.4 million
Total system	1.5 million

Annual (1994)

Bus	331.5 million
Rail	143.6 million
Special services	1.2 million
Total system	476.3 million

Bus route miles	2,020
Bus miles traveled per day	228,519
Rail route miles	236
Rail miles traveled per day	152,325

CTA FACTS AT A GLANCE

Number of...

Buses	2,064
Bus routes	138
Bus stops	12,809
Rapid transit cars	1,134
Rapid transit routes	7*
Rapid transit stations	117
Employee positions	12,560

* Green Line closed until 1996

Important transit dates in Chicago

Horse car service began	Apr. 25, 1859
Cable car service began	Jan. 28, 1882
First electric streetcars	Oct. 2, 1890
First rapid transit line	June 6, 1892
Loop Elevated opened	Oct. 12, 1897
First motor bus service	Mar. 25, 1917
Trolley bus service began	Apr. 17, 1930
State Street subway opened ...	Oct. 17, 1943
CTA became operating entity	Oct. 1, 1947
Dearborn subway opened	Feb. 25, 1951
Expressway median operation:	
Congress (Eisenhower)	June 22, 1958
Dan Ryan	Sept. 28, 1969
Kennedy	Feb. 1, 1970
Rail service to O'Hare	Sept. 3, 1984
Rail service to Midway	Oct. 31, 1993