


CHICAGO TRANSIT AUTHORITY

Facts

AT A GLANCE



On Time,
Clean,
Safe...



and
Friendly
Service

June 2002

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cta

take it.

CHICAGO TRANSIT AUTHORITY

The Chicago Transit Authority operates the nation's second largest public transportation system. On an average weekday, 1.48 million rides are taken on CTA, which serves Chicago and 38 suburbs.

CTA has 1,916 buses that operate over 142 routes and 2,252 route miles. Buses make about 24,160 trips a day and serve 12,212 posted bus stops.

On the rapid transit system, CTA's 1,190 rapid transit cars operate over seven routes and 222.6 miles of track. CTA trains make about 2,128 trips each day and serve 144 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 customers to O'Hare International Airport in about 45 minutes from stations in the Dearborn subway downtown.

Orange Line trains, which operate clockwise on the Loop 'L' structure, make trips to Midway Airport in about 30 minutes. Customers 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 some of its routes. In the late night and early morning hours, major rapid transit routes and some 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 predominant operator of Chicago transit when it purchased the Chicago Motor Coach system.

The governing arm of CTA is the Chicago Transit Board. Valerie B. Jarrett serves as chairman. 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's day-to-day operations are directed by Frank Kruesi, president.

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 suburban rail system), and Pace (the suburban bus system) to recover collectively at least 50% of operating costs from farebox and other system revenues. The CTA recovery ratio for 2001 was actually 52.89%. 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	3.8 million (based on preliminary figures for 2000 Census)

2002 Operating budget	\$914.8 million
2002 Capital budget	\$517.9 million

Ridership (unlinked trips, based on 2001 fiscal year)

Average weekday

Bus	0.97 million
Rail	0.51 million
Total system	1.48 million

Annual (2001)

Bus	301.7 million
Rail	151.7 million
Special services	1.4 million
Total system	454.9 million

Bus route miles	2,252
Bus miles traveled per day	203,719
Rail route miles	222.6
Rail miles traveled per day	188,581

Number of...

Buses	1,916
Bus routes	142
Bus stops	12,212
Rapid transit cars	1,190
Rapid transit routes	7
Rapid transit stations	144
Employee positions	11,726

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
Last streetcar ran	June 21, 1958
Skokie Swift Service began	Apr. 20, 1964
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