

Chicago Transit Authority

Facts at a Glance

Spring 2007



www.transitchicago.com

take it everywhere.SM

Chicago Transit Authority

The Chicago Transit Authority ("CTA") operates the nation's second largest public transportation system. On an average weekday, 1.6 million rides are taken on CTA. The CTA is a regional transit system that serves 40 suburbs, in addition to the city of Chicago, and provides 81 percent of the public transit trips in the six-county region either with direct service or connecting service to Metra and Pace.

CTA has 2,140 buses that operate over 154 routes and 2,529 route miles. Buses make about 24,227 trips a day and serve 11,865 posted bus stops.

On the rapid transit system, CTA's 1,190 rail cars operate over eight routes and 224.1 miles of track. CTA trains make about 2,410 trips each day and serve 144 stations.

Chicago is one of the few cities in the world that has rail service to two major airports. CTA's Blue Line 'L' can take customers to O'Hare International Airport.

Orange Line trains, which operate

clockwise on the Loop 'L' structure, travel to Midway Airport. Customers traveling from one airport to the other can change trains without paying an extra fare at the Clark/Lake & station.

CTA also provides around-the-clock service on certain routes. During late night and early morning hours, major rail lines 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. Carole L. Brown 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 Ron Huberman, 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 percent of operating costs from farebox and other system revenues. The CTA recovery ratio for 2006 was actually 54.55 percent. RTA provides public funding for the agencies' remaining operating expenses.

CTA Facts at a Glance

Area served by CTA.....	Chicago and 40 suburbs
Service population.....	3.9 million (based on 2000 Census)

2006 Operating budget.....	\$1,133,151
2006 Capital budget	\$434 million

Ridership (unlinked trips, based on 2006 fiscal year)

Average weekday

Bus.....	0.96 million
Rail.....	0.64 million
Total system	1.60 million

Annual (2006)

Bus.....	298.4 million
Rail.....	195.2 million
Special services*	1.2 million
Total system	494.8 million

Bus route miles.....	2,529
Bus miles traveled per day	214,295
Rail route miles.....	224.1
Rail miles traveled per day	225,419
Miles of elevated structure.....	35.8
Miles of 'L' at grade level	35.0
Miles of 'L' embankment, etc.	20.6
Miles of subway	11.4
Clearance range of 'L' structure in the Loop.....	13'3"-19'4"

Number of...

Buses	2,140
Bus routes	154
Bus stops	11,865
Rail cars	1,190
Rail lines	8
Rail stations	144
Employee positions	11,860

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 rail 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
Rail line names switched to colors ..	Feb. 21, 1993

* Effective July 1, 2006, all Paratransit operations were transferred to Pace.