



**cta**



**Facts at  
a Glance**

Summer 2009

## Chicago Transit Authority

The Chicago Transit Authority ("CTA") operates the nation's second largest public transportation system. On an average weekday, 1.7 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 Chicago metropolitan area either with direct service or connecting service to Metra and Pace.

CTA has 1,971 buses that operate over 153 routes and 2,517 route miles. Buses make about 24,195 trips a day and serve 11,701 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 2,391 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.

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 Richard L. Rodriguez, president.

CTA generates revenue from both farebox collections and non-farebox revenues, and also receives supplemental funding for operating expenses through 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 2007 was 53.58 percent.



## CTA Facts at a Glance

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

---

2009 Operating budget.....	\$1.306 billion
2009 Capital budget .....	\$577.1 million

---

### Ridership

#### Average weekday (2008)

Bus .....	1.04 million
Rail .....	0.64 million
Total system .....	1.68 million

#### Annual (2008)

Bus .....	382.2 million
Rail .....	198.1 million
Total system .....	526.3 million

---

Bus route miles.....	2,517
Bus miles traveled per day .....	221,350
Rail route miles.....	224.1
Rail miles traveled per day .....	214,970
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 .....	1,971
Bus routes .....	153
Bus stops .....	11,701
Rail cars .....	1,190
Rail lines .....	8
Rail stations .....	144
Employee positions .....	10,500

---

### 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
Farecards introduced.....	August 18, 1997
Pink Line service began .....	June 25, 2006