RTA Does That

Building Transit Friendly Communities:
Over the past 15 years, the RTA has leveraged federal, state, local and its own dollars to fund 241 public transit-related projects, totaling more than $139 million throughout the six-county region.

Providing Accessibility:
The RTA manages the ADA Paratransit Certification program that serves individuals with disabilities. More than 17,000 applications are received each year and there are more than 60,000 eligible customers across the region.

The RTA’s Travel Training programs serve more than 3,000 older adults and people with disabilities each year, teaching them how to use public transportation.

Gathering Transit Data:
The Regional Transportation Authority Mapping and Statistics (RTAMS) website is a transit information warehouse developed by the RTA with support from the UIC-Computer Science department. The website’s goal is to improve access to the region’s wide array of transit related data and resources available from the RTA, CTA, Metra, Pace and other regional transportation and planning agencies.

Ensuring Financial Accountability:
The RTA reviews the annual budgets for CTA, Metra, Pace and ADA Paratransit to ensure they are balanced and consistent with their long-range plans. In 2015, the regional transit budget is approximately $4 billion, comprised of a $2.8 billion operating budget and a $1.2 billion capital program. The RTA plans to oversee more than $3.8 billion in capital projects over the next five years, ensuring they are on schedule and within budget.

Improving Your Ride:
The RTA’s work on Transit Signal Priority technology will reduce the time buses are stopped at intersections.

The RTA’s funding programs help to improve sidewalks, bicycle facilities, crossing signals and parking lots, making it easier for riders to access transit.

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

Advocating for You:
The RTA is the driving force behind the Getting America to Work campaign, which advocates for the federal funding necessary to bring the country’s and region’s public transit system into a state of good repair.

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

Answering Your Questions:
The RTA Trip Planner connects riders to their destination by comparing transit modes such as transit, driving, biking and walking. Visit www.RTAChicago.org. Additionally, the RTA’s Travel Information Center answers questions about CTA, Metra and Pace, and can be reached at 836-7000.

The RTA’s Customer Service Centers serve over 550,000 individuals with disabilities and older adults enrolled in Reduced Fare and Ride Free programs.

Planning for the Future:
The RTA works with other regional agencies to set strategic direction, plan new projects and help the region determine how to make the best use of limited funds. We also ensure that agencies are coordinated and our region provides better mobility for all residents in the future.
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.

RTA’s Work Throughout the Region

McHenry
McHenry County Services Restructuring Study
The RTA contributed nearly $120,000 to the McHenry County Services Restructuring Study through its Community Planning program in 2013. The study recommended transit improvements which helped guide the development of the Pace-funded Route 809 Richmond-Fox Lake Metra Station. Route 809 now provides weekday rush hour service between the Village of Richmond and the Metra Milwaukee District-North Line Fox Lake Station.

Kane
Aurora
As part of the 2015 RTA Community Planning program, Aurora is receiving assistance for the development of a plan that will recommend pedestrian access improvements to the Aurora Transit Center and Route 59 Metra station. The plan is assessing the potential for additional sidewalks and paths, enhanced crosswalks, signage, intersection improvements and bicycle accommodations.

Will

Cook
Cermak-McCormick Place CTA Green Line Station Area
The RTA’s Community Planning program provided $200,000 to the City of Chicago, with Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) support, to develop land-use and transportation plans for some CTA ‘L’ station areas. One of these, the new Cermak-McCormick Green Line Station, was completed in February 2015 and will contribute to growing economic development in that area, including a planned entertainment district in the historic Motor Row District.

University Park
The RTA funded the University Park Transit Oriented Development (TOD) plan to help establish mixed use development in its Metra station, as well as connect the east and west sides of the Village. Additionally, the RTA helped to coordinate a panel of development experts in 2014 to provide guidance on ways the community can attract TOD investment to the station area. The Village is currently exploring ways to improve connections between the Metra station and Governors State University to accommodate the Village’s growing population.

Lake
Highwood
Through the RTA Community Planning program, the City of Highwood received $104,000 to complete its transit-oriented development (TOD) plan and begin a TOD area zoning code update. The plan and code update will help guide the future development of residential, neighborhood retail and office space in the TOD area. Construction could begin on a potential mixed-use development adjacent to the Highwood Metra station in 2016.

DuPage
DuPage Area Transit Plan Update
The RTA administered $50,000 through the RTA Community Planning program for the DuPage Area Transit Plan Update, recommending improved pedestrian access at some transit stops throughout DuPage County, including in Glen Ellyn. The RTA was awarded CMAQ funding on behalf of the Village for pedestrian signals, ADA-compliant sidewalk ramps and additional sidewalks to connect to Pace and bike routes. Work on this project is expected to begin in 2016.

For more information email: communications@rtachicago.org