



Harlem Avenue Corridor



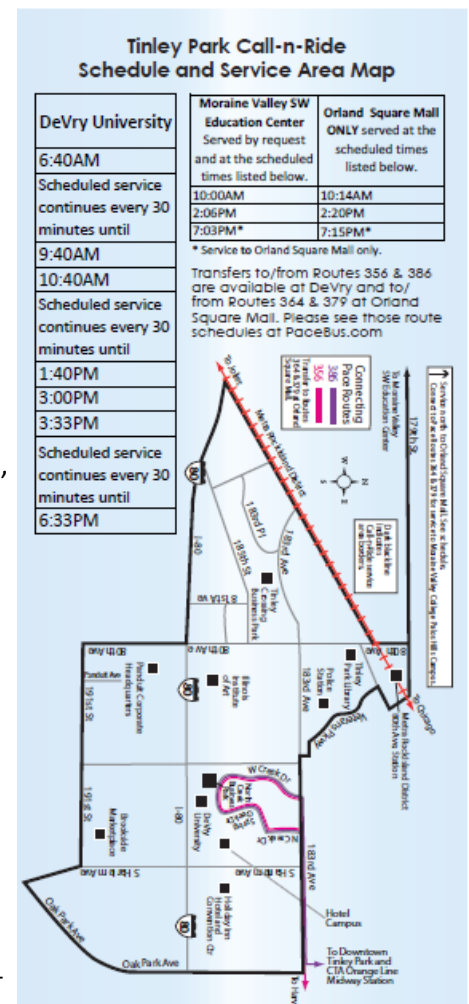
Pace bus at Toyota Park. A Pace Transit Center, a recommendation from the plan, is currently under construction. (Photo Credit: Pace)

This Southwest Conference of Mayors sponsored [Harlem Avenue Corridor Plan](#) examined Harlem Avenue from 63rd Street on the north to Interstate 80 on the south, traversing ten suburban communities. Individual sections of the corridor were examined, and site specific recommendations regarding land use, economic development, public transportation, and pedestrian access were identified. Detailed recommendations, including cost estimates, viable funding sources, and potential partnering agencies were provided to address each segment’s unique opportunities. The plan was completed in November 2011 and adopted by the Southwest Conference of Mayors.

Implementation Highlights Pace’s Tinley Park Call-n-Ride Service, with a service area that includes Harlem Avenue from 183rd Street to 191st Street, began in August 2014. The Illinois Department of Transportation released a Request for Proposals (RFP) for engineering studies to include a design report and environmental assessment of the Harlem and 63rd Street grade separation (eliminating the street level crossing of the railroad tracks), a key infrastructure improvement that was addressed in the Plan. Palos Heights is utilizing Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) funds, which the RTA secured, for new sidewalks that extend pedestrian mobility and provide increased access to Pace Routes 383 and 386. Construction is expected to begin in late 2015. In 2015, the Village of Worth, through the Community Planning program, will work with the RTA to create a TOD plan for the Worth Metra Station, adjacent to Harlem Avenue.

Private development and investment along the Harlem Avenue Corridor is also increasing. A new Pete’s Fresh Market is scheduled to open in spring 2015 in Bridgeview; and a mixed-use residential and retail building will be completed in 2015 in Palos Heights.

Local communities are also playing a vital role in spurring redevelopment. The Village of Chicago Ridge created a Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District for the “Yellow Freight” site. The Village of Tinley Park is creating a Master Plan for the Mental Health Center site near 183rd and Harlem and is exploring the possibility of creating a TIF District for the 280 acre site. A Harlem Avenue Overlay District Rezoning Plan is in the process of being adopted by the Palos Heights City Council, which will provide the regulatory framework to allow mixed-use development and improved pedestrian access to buildings and transit along the corridor. These local activities will assist in achieving the development recommendations of the Plan.



Tinley Park Call-n-Ride Information, Courtesy of Pace