

# Transforming Transit: Accelerating a Zero- Emission Fleet in the Chicago Region

## Project Summary

The Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) is requesting \$375 million from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (U.S. EPA) Carbon Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) program for the **Transforming Transit: Accelerating a Zero-Emission Fleet in the Chicago Region** initiative. U.S. EPA is currently accepting applications for implementation grants, which fund projects that utilize strategies and measures included in Priority Climate Action Plans (PCAP) to reduce regional carbon emissions. RTA, CTA, Metra, and Pace worked with the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus (MMC) and the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) to develop the [Priority Climate Action Plan \(PCAP\) for the Chicago Metropolitan Statistical Area \(MSA\)](#), which also includes parts of Southeastern Wisconsin and Northwestern Indiana. **Transforming Transit** is directly connected to strategies and measures included in MMC's PCAP related to Decarbonizing Transportation. Specifically, the RTA is requesting funding to implement two measures included in our region's PCAP:

1. Transition CTA and Pace's bus fleets to 100 percent electric by 2040 and;
2. Deploy electric trainsets while retiring Metra's oldest locomotives.

These critical investments will accelerate the transition to a zero-emission network, solidifying transit's pivotal role in addressing climate emissions and improving regional equity.

## Funding Details

With CPRG funding, the RTA will work with each of the operators to make the following investments:

- **\$125 million for CTA to purchase up to fifty 60-foot articulated buses and two charging cabinets supporting up to 40 pantograph chargers** to be housed in their 103rd Street garage and used on at least two of 25 routes originating in the historic Pullman neighborhood on Chicago's Far Southeast Side – a historically disadvantaged community and one of the areas of greatest concern for pollution burdens and vulnerability.



- **\$125 million for Pace to purchase up to eighty-three 40-foot buses** to be housed in their North (Waukegan) and Southwest (Bridgeview) Division garages and deployed along 23 routes. Waukegan and Bridgeview are historically disadvantaged communities vulnerable to pollution and air quality issues.
- **\$125 million for Metra to purchase 32 trailer cars and 8 docking stations** that will allow Metra to retire 16 of its oldest diesel locomotives and add service on three high-ridership lines: Union Pacific North, Milwaukee District West, and the Rock Island Beverly Branch.

## Emissions Benefits

Together the improvements included in *Transforming Transit* will reduce carbon dioxide emissions in the transportation sector and reduce vehicle tailpipe emissions of particulate matter (PM), nitrogen oxides (NOx), carbon monoxide (CO), and hydrocarbons (HCs) responsible for worsening air quality in the region. Specifically, CTA, Metra, and Pace's electrification improvements will:

- Reduce carbon dioxide emissions by more than 135 thousand tons by 2030, and over 400 thousand tons by 2050.
- Result in a combined 626 ton reduction in vehicle tailpipe emissions by 2030 and a more than 1,900 ton reduction by 2050.

Northeastern Illinois residents will benefit from quieter transit vehicles operating in their neighborhoods, reducing noise pollution, and cleaner air to breathe, making for healthier communities throughout the region.

## Planned Deployment

While together these improvements will provide significant benefits to the region as a whole, certain communities and neighborhoods will see more direct benefits through deployment of new equipment on specific routes.

- **CTA:** New buses and chargers will be housed at the 103<sup>rd</sup> Street garage in the Pullman neighborhood which supports operation of 25 routes serving Chicago neighborhoods including Ashburn, Auburn Gresham, Avalon Park, Beverly, Burnside, Calumet Heights, Chatham, Douglas, East Side, Grand Boulevard, Greater Grand Crossing, Hegewisch Hyde Park, Kenwood, Morgan Park, Mount Greenwood, the Loop, Pullman, Riverdale, Roseland, South Chicago, South Deering, South Shore, Washington Heights, Washington Park, West Pullman, and Woodlawn.
- **Pace:** New buses will be housed at the North Division garage in Waukegan and the Southwest Division garage in Bridgeview. Buses will be deployed along routes serving the communities of Alsip, Beach Park, Blue Island, Bridgeview, Burbank, Chicago Ridge, Crestwood, Evergreen Park, Fox Lake, Grayslake, Gurnee, Hainesville, Hickory Hills, Justice, Midlothian, Mundelein, North Chicago, Oak Forest, Oak Lawn, Orland Park, Palos Heights, Palos Hills, Palos Park, Park City, Round Lake, Round Lake Beach, Round Lake Park, Tinley Park, Vernon Hills, Waukegan, Willow Springs, Worth, and Zion.
- **Metra:** New trainsets will be deployed and service will be expanded on the Union Pacific North line, between Ogilvie Transportation Center and Winnetka, Milwaukee District West, between Chicago Union Station and O'Hare, and the Rock Island Beverly Branch between LaSalle Street Station and Blue Island. These enhancements will affect service to Chicago neighborhoods including Armour Square, Auburn Gresham, Austin, Belmont Cragin, Beverly, Douglas, Lincoln Park, Lincoln Square, Montclare, Morgan Park, Rogers Park, Uptown, Washington Heights, and West Town, and suburban municipalities including Blue Island, Elmwood Park, Evanston, Franklin Park, Kenilworth, River Grove, Rosemont, Schiller Park, Wilmette, and Winnetka.



# Project Map

