



**Regional  
Transportation  
Authority**

## **For immediate release**

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### **RTA Proposes Regional Plan for Transit Improvements**

*Funding for CTA, Metra, Pace capital needs will be funded through RTA bonds*

CHICAGO – The Regional Transportation Authority today announced a plan to fund capital improvements for transit systems across Chicago and the suburbs.

The \$2.5 billion initiative stands to improve overall experiences and travel times for CTA, Metra and Pace riders, while also helping to lower each agency's operating costs – all while placing no additional burden on riders or taxpayers.

“System-wide, riders are suffering from an aging infrastructure that's only deteriorating further because there just aren't enough funds to properly repair what needs to be fixed,” said John S. Gates, Jr., Chairman of the RTA board. “We recognize the need to show a strong commitment to providing safe, reliable and affordable public transportation throughout the Chicago area and believe this plan provides the necessary funding to do that.”

Gates and RTA Executive Director Joseph Costello introduced the plan at the RTA's board meeting on Friday. It calls for issuing a series of bonds over the next five years, averaging about \$500 million in capital improvement dollars each year. While each agency would be able to prioritize the projects to fund, the RTA has an existing list of backlogged projects it will reference before approving expenditures.

“We must make the kind of investments necessary to reduce the nearly \$100 million we spend each year simply maintaining the system,” Gates said.

The RTA would take advantage of its strong AA bond rating to secure the funds. The RTA's bond rating is lower than that of the State or any of the service boards so it can be competitive in the financial markets. Projected growth in RTA revenues would more than cover the debt service.

The CTA, Metra and Pace are facing a massive shortfall in state and federal funding for capital projects over the next five years. Only \$700 million has been budgeted for improvements with those agencies each year – far less than the \$1.3 billion needed just to keep the system from getting worse.

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In seeking approval to issue the bonds, the RTA is also proposing streamlining the funding process for public transportation. The RTA is proposing moving from a complex funding formula to a vastly simpler, more regional approach, which will allow the service boards to maintain their current revenue.

This proposal calls for dividing bonding funds in the same manner as dividing of public funds – CTA receiving 56%, Metra 32% and Pace 12%. These are the same proportions received in 2012. “It is my hope that by streamlining and simplifying the funding process, we can provide greater certainty as each agency develops its budget,” Gates said.

The RTA plan will be introduced in the January 2013 legislative session.

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*About the RTA: The RTA provides financial oversight, funding and regional planning for the three public transit operations in Northeastern Illinois: The Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) bus and train, Metra commuter rail and Pace suburban bus and paratransit. For more information, visit [www.RTAchicago.com](http://www.RTAchicago.com).*



## **Regional Transportation Authority**

### **RTA SYSTEM RENEWAL HIGHLIGHTS**

#### **Equipment investments and upgrades**

- **ADA Accessibility: \$20 million**
  - Upgrade existing CTA and Metra stations to comply with ADA requirements.
  - Improvements may include touch-operated doors, improved signage, lighting, improved walking surfaces, elevators, and parking.
- **Metra Commuter Cars: \$128 million**
  - Upgrade and rehab up to 197 commuter cars throughout the Metra system.
- **Metra Bridges: \$300 million**
  - Replace several Metra bridges. Structural scope of work will include replacing existing stone abutments, retaining wall construction, steel spans and decks.
- **Paratransit Vehicles: \$16.8 million**
  - Expand fleet by at least 210 Pace vehicles and associated equipment.

#### **Station and infrastructure investments and upgrades**

- **Green, Blue and Purple CTA Line Train Stations: \$100 million**
  - Rehab and replace up to six stations along CTA's Green, Blue and Purple lines. Improvements include new platforms, waiting rooms, cameras and elevators.
- **CTA Track Renewal: \$291 million**
  - Rehab and replace track, ties and track bed along Brown and Blue line slow zones.
- **DuPage County Parking: \$12 million**
  - Rehab and expand commuter parking lots. Investments include pavement, lighting, drainage, landscaping, revenue collection system improvements, and additional parking spaces.
    - Clarendon Hills
    - Fairview
    - Naperville
- **Joliet Intermodal Facility Parking: \$2.5 million**
  - Rehab and expand commuter parking lot at the Joliet Intermodal Facility.
  - Improvements include pavement, lighting, drainage, landscaping and revenue collection system improvements.
- **Bolingbrook Park and Ride: \$1.5 million**
  - Construct a 75-space park-and-ride facility in Bolingbrook to meet demand of increased riders needing daily parking.
- **McHenry Station: \$4 million**
  - Reconstruct platform and rehab entire facility resulting in less dwell time, more efficient train loading, improved on-time performance and reduced maintenance cost. Facility will also meet ADA requirements.
- **Deerfield Station Parking: \$2 million**
  - Rehab and expand commuter parking lot. Improvements include pavement, lighting, drainage, landscaping and revenue collection system improvements.



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## **INCENTIVE TO INVEST IN REGIONAL TRANSIT**

RTA Renewal Investment Plan: \$2.5 billion in bond funds over 5 years

Now is the time to invest in our region's transit. The expansion and rehabilitation of transit facilities and services translates into significant benefits for our region's residents, employers and economies:

**Reduced congestion:** More workers commute downtown by Metra trains than by car

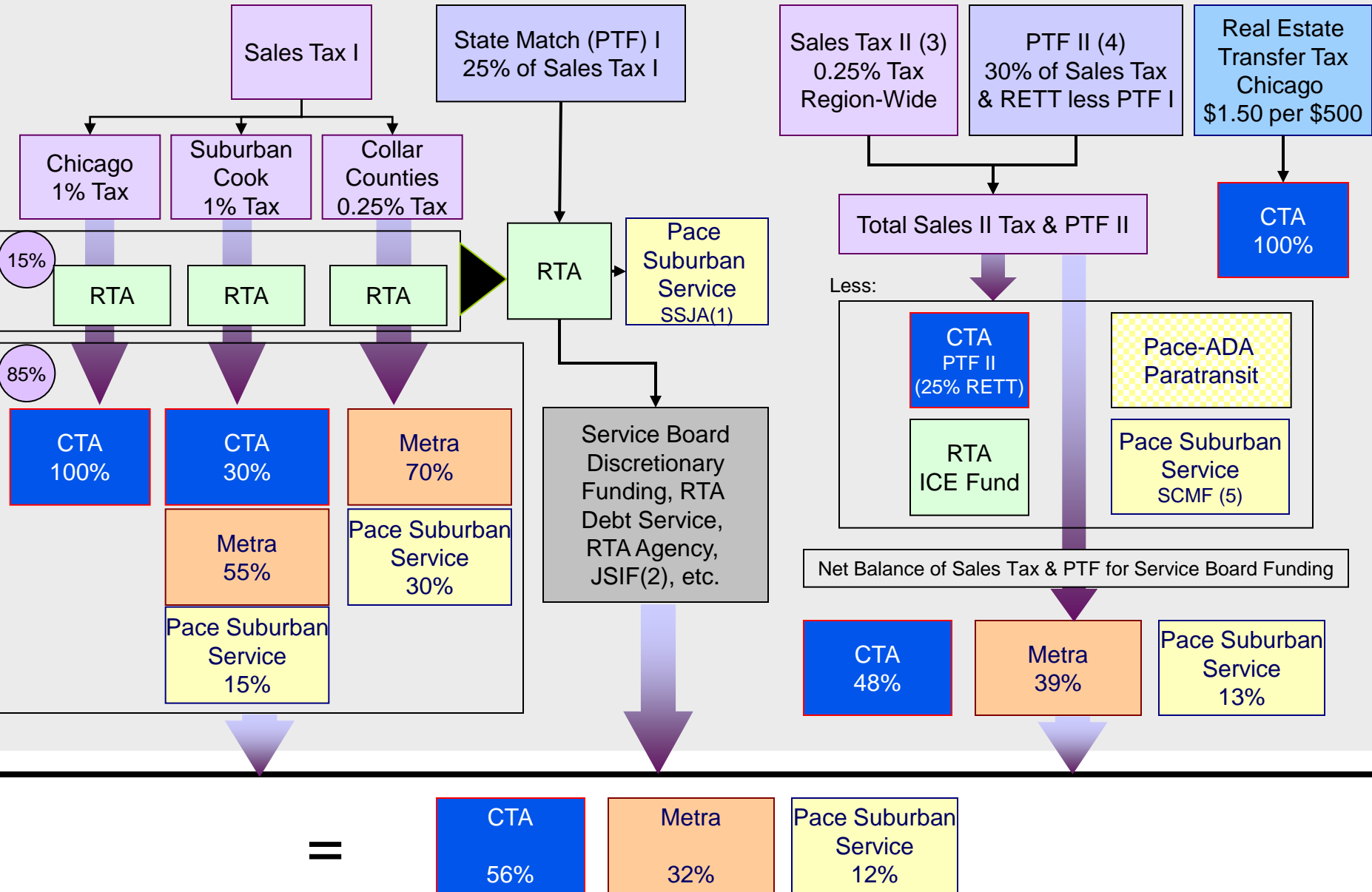
Increased productivity and quality of life: Less time on the road means more time in the office, and more time with family.

**A more affordable region:** Regional transit provides alternatives to expensive gas and parking

**Attracts employers:** Companies have moved jobs to the region because transit provides access to top talent.

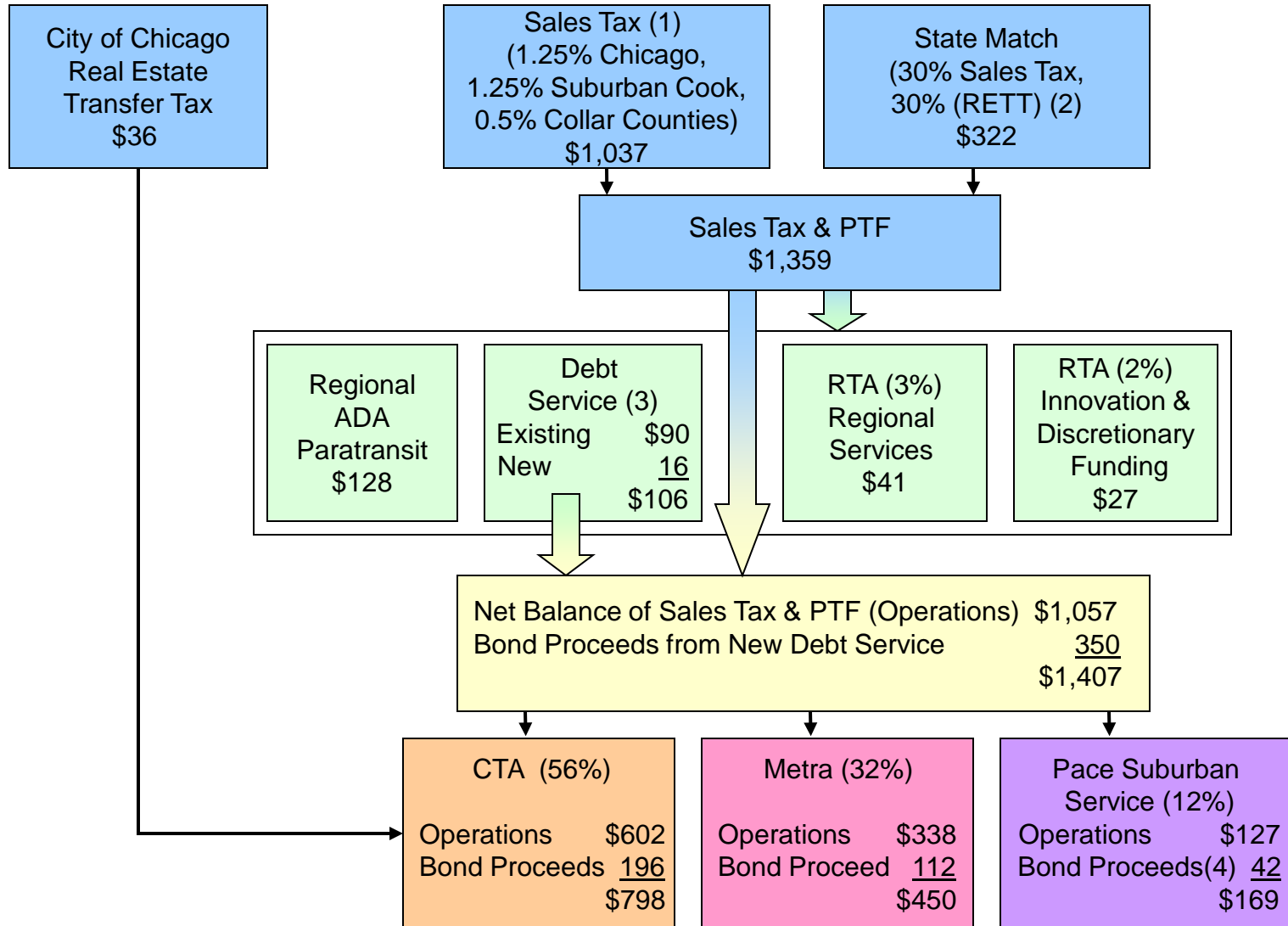
**Job creation:** Every \$1 billion in transit investments supports nearly 24,000 jobs.

# Current RTA Funding



# Proposed 2013 RTA Funding

(Dollars in Millions)



(1) 2008 Legislation also included 0.25% sales tax in Collar Counties retained by the county where collected.  
 (2) PTF = Public Transportation Fund (3) Debt service on bonds for Service Board capital projects net of ASA and AFA. (4) Capital investment for Suburban Service and Regional ADA Paratransit Service.