



Welcome to another issue of The Green Pennant Special, the official publication of The Omnibus Society of America.

Through this publication we hope to keep our readers informed of events happening in the transit industry in Chicago and other cities in the United States.

## • JANUARY OSA MEETING

The next regular meetings of the Omnibus Society of America will be on January 2, 2004, in the Anderson Pavilion of Swedish Covenant Hospital, 2751 W. Winona Avenue, Chicago, Illinois. The meeting will be start at 7:30 pm.

The hospital is on California near Foster. Winona is one half-block south of Foster. By public transportation, take the 92 Foster to California. From the Ravenswood Brown Line, take the 93 North California from Kimball, get off after it turns onto California from Foster and walk back south. Or, take the 11 Lincoln from Western; get off at Carmen (One block south of Foster) and walk west on Winona.

There is some parking on California and Winona. The parking structure is on the west side of California just south of Foster.

Our program, "Vintage Chicago Transit," a look back at vintage bus, rapid transit, streetcar and trolleybus operations in and around the Chicago area, by Mike Charnota.

## • OSA ELECTION

The OSA held its yearly election to fill the expiring terms of John LeBeau and Dave Zucker. Both John and Dave were reelected to a new three year term.

## • CTA HAPPENINGS

**The Chicago Transit Authority's** new fare structure will go into effect on Thursday, January 1. A 25 cent increase to the base bus and rail fare, a five cent reduction in the price of a transfer from 30 cents to 25 cents, no change in the price of multi-day passes, and the elimination of the 25 cent surcharge on express bus routes are the key changes. The new structure will enable the CTA to continue to provide the high level of service it has worked hard to achieve and ensure a public transit system designed to serve customers into the future.

"CTA developed its new fare structure after many months of research and analysis to find the best way to minimize the impact on customers while providing sufficient

revenue to maintain current service levels and improve services as needed," said CTA President Frank Kruesi.

When all fare media, from cash, to cards, to passes is considered, the CTA's average fare is projected to increase from 82 cents a ride to 87 cents.

### Full Fare

Full fare for bus and rail service increases from \$1.50 to \$1.75. The fare may be paid in cash, or with a Transit Card or Chicago Card. The Chicago Cards continue to offer a 10 percent bonus for every \$10 of value added. Transit Cards will continue to offer a 10 percent bonus for every \$10 of value added only until the new Chicago Card Plus farecard becomes available in early 2004.

### Full Fare Transfer

The full fare transfer decreases from 30 cents to 25 cents for both bus and rail service. The transfer allows two additional rides within two hours of issue.

### Full Fare Passes and Visitor Passes

Prices of multi-day passes and Visitor Passes remain unchanged.

### Express Surcharge

The 25-cent Express Surcharge on bus routes #2, #6, #14 and #147 from downtown is eliminated.

### Rush Shuttle Fares

The Rush Shuttle fare remains \$1. Rush Shuttle fares apply on certain bus routes during morning and evening rush hours between downtown Metra stations and the surrounding areas.

### Reduced Fares

CTA will continue to offer a range of reduced fares for use by children ages 7-11; grade school and high school students with CTA Student Riding Permits; and seniors and riders with disabilities with RTA Reduced Fare Permits or Cards. The new reduced fares are as follows:

Reduced fare increases from 75 cents to 85 cents for both bus and rail service.

Reduced Fare Transit Cards will continue to provide a 10 percent bonus only until Reduced Fare Chicago Cards become available. Once the Reduced Fare Chicago Cards are available, the bonus on reduced Fare Transit Cards will be discontinued.

Reduced Fare Transfers remain unchanged at 15 cents. Transfers allow two additional rides within two hours of issue.

(Cont. on page 2)

## CTA

Reduced Fare 30-Day Passes remain unchanged at \$35.

### Special Services, Taxi Access program, Mobility Direct

Fares for curbside van service, for taxi service using pre-paid vouchers and for voucherless taxi service for recurring trips increases from \$1.50 to \$1.75.

### Paratransit 30-Day Pass

The Paratransit 30-Day Pass remains at \$75.

The fare increases is part of the CTA's 2004 \$936.6 million operating budget. For the past several years, the CTA has worked diligently to deliver on its mission while operating in an increasingly tough economic environment. ([www.transitchicago.com](http://www.transitchicago.com))

## • PACE PATTERN

The cost of using public transportation in the suburbs will slightly decrease in 2004. Effective Thursday, January 1, the cost of a regular Pace transfer will drop from 30 cents to 25 cents to mirror the new transfer price charged by the Chicago Transit Authority. Pace's reduced-fare transfer price for senior citizens, students and people with disabilities will decrease from 15 cents to 10 cents. Pace's regular fixed-route bus fare will remain at \$1.50 next year, and the reduced fare will stay at 75 cents.

The estimated revenue loss of \$295,000 associated with the transfer price reductions will not cause a major problem in Pace's 2004 operating budget, which is set at \$147.3 million. In fact, Pace's projected revenue loss could be significantly less if additional riders choose Pace because of lower fares. Nearly half of all Pace passengers transfer to or from the CTA, so a common transfer fee between the two agencies helps keep public transportation simple to use throughout the Chicago area. ([www.pacebus.com](http://www.pacebus.com))

## - CALENDAR OF EVENTS -

In cooperation with the various rail and transit enthusiast organizations meeting in Chicago, we present this "Calendar of Events".

Jan 9. Chicago Chapter - Railway & Locomotive Historical Society meeting. 7:00pm. The Chicago Temple (77 W. Washington - Pierce Hall (lower level auditorium). Admission is free. Program - *"To be announced."*

Jan 16. The Railroad Club of Chicago meeting. 7:30pm. The Chicago Temple (77 W. Washington - Pierce Hall (lower level auditorium). Donation of \$3.00 requested for non-members. Program - *"Mind the Doors, eh?"* a look at suburban rail operations in various North American cities, including Toronto, Baltimore and Dallas by David Phillips.

Feb 27.. Central Electric Railfans' Association meeting. 7:30pm. 205 W. Wacker Drive Suite 200 (Securities Training Corp). \$5.00 admission for non-members. Program - *"Polish Your Polish"*, a look at mainline and street railway operations throughout Poland, a slide presentation by Raymond DeGroote, Jr.

An online version of our Calendar of Events is available, courtesy of the Shore Line Interurban Historical Society, at [www.shore-line.org/calendar.html](http://www.shore-line.org/calendar.html)