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On Time Clean, Safe and Friendly Service

CHICAGO TRANSIT AUTHORITY

he Chicago Transit Authority operates the nation's second largest public transportation system. On an average weekday, 1.4 million rides are taken on CTA, which serves Chicago and 38 suburbs.

CTA has 1,878 buses that operate over 131 routes and 1,935 route miles. Buses make about 20,985 trips a day and serve 12,210 posted bus stops.

On the rapid transit system, CTA's 1,190 rapid transit cars operate over seven routes and 222.6 miles of track. CTA trains make about 1,452 trips each day and serve 140 stations.

Chicago is one of the few cities in the world that has rapid transit service to two major airports. CTA's Blue Line 'L' can take riders to O'Hare International Airport in about 40 minutes from stations in the Dearborn subway downtown.

Orange Line trains, which operate clockwise on the Loop 'L' structure, make trips to Midway Airport in about 30 minutes. Riders traveling from one

airport to the other can change trains without paying any extra fare at the Clark/Lake station.

CTA also provides around-the-clock service on some of its routes. In the late night and early morning hours, major rapid transit routes and some of CTA's bus routes offer "Night Owl" service, much of it with connecting schedules and routing.

Chicago Transit Authority is an independent governmental agency created by state legislation. CTA began operating on Oct. 1, 1947, after it acquired the properties of the Chicago Rapid Transit Company and the Chicago Surface Lines. On Oct. 1, 1952, CTA became the sole operator of Chicago transit when it purchased the Chicago Motor Coach system.

The governing arm of CTA is the Chicago Transit Board. Valerie B. Jarrett currently serves as chairman. The board consists of seven members, four appointed by the mayor of Chicago and three by the governor of Illinois.

The mayor's appointees are subject to the approval of the governor and the Chicago City Council; the governor's appointees are subject to the approval of the mayor and the Illinois State Senate. CTA's day-to-day operations are directed by Frank Kruesi, president.

CTA generates revenue from farebox collections and also receives supplemental funding for operating expenses from the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA).

The RTA was established in 1974 to oversee local transportation operators in the six-county Chicago metropolitan area. Illinois state law requires the three RTA service boards - CTA, Metra (the suburban rail system), and Pace (the suburban bus system) to recover collectively at least 50% of operating costs from farebox and other system revenues. RTA provides public funding for the agencies' remaining operating expenses.

CTA FACTS AT A GLANCE

Area served by CTA
1999 Operating budget \$795.8 million 1999 Capital budget \$235.9 million
Ridership (unlinked trips, based on 1998 fiscal year) Average weekday Bus
Bus route miles

CTA FACTS AT A GLANCE

Number of Buses 1,878 Bus routes 131 Bus stops 12,210 Rapid transit cars 1,190 Rapid transit routes 7 Rapid transit stations 140 Employee positions 11,200
Important transit dates in Chicago Horse car service began Apr. 25, 1859 Cable car service began Jan. 28, 1882 First electric streetcars Oct. 2, 1890 First rapid transit line June 6, 1892 Loop Elevated opened Oct. 12, 1897 First motor bus service Mar. 25, 1917 Trolley bus service began Apr. 17, 1930 State Street subway opened Oct. 17, 1943 CTA became operating entity . Oct. 1, 1947 Dearborn subway opened Feb. 25, 1951 Last streetcar ran June 21, 1958 Skokie Swift Service began . Apr. 20, 1964 Expressway median operation: Congress (Eisenhower) June 22, 1958 Dan Ryan Sept. 28, 1969 Kennedy