



**pace**

A Fresh Approach To Public Transportation

## **NEWS RELEASE**

**550 West Algonquin Road, Arlington Heights, Illinois 60005**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **PACE BOARD FINALIZES COST REDUCTION PLAN**

Numerous routes saved from proposed elimination through restructuring, use of capital funding

Facing a projected \$6.5 million budget shortfall for 2010, the Pace Board of Directors approved a balanced budget in November without specifically outlining how the shortfall would be resolved. The Board directed staff to continue discussions with stakeholders and to review alternatives to service reductions that would have affected 51 bus routes in the Pace service area. A new plan, approved by the Board at their December meeting, preserves service on 27 of the 51 routes, and relying on restructuring of routes to improve productivity and an infusion of capital funding to cover operating costs.

“While we weren’t able to save all of the routes proposed for elimination, we feel confident that every effort was made to preserve everything that we could, and further mitigate the impacts for as many riders as possible,” said Pace Chairman of the Board Richard Kwasneski. Of the 24 routes that remain slated for elimination, nine are losing only Saturday and/or Sunday service and their weekday service will be unaffected. The 24 affected by elimination were selected because they have low ridership, particularly relative to the cost of operation. All eliminations and reductions are to be effective February 7, 2010.

In addition to the \$1.5 million of service eliminations/reductions, Pace will be redirecting \$2.3 million of capital funding to cover the cost of operation of the 27 routes preserved from the original list of eliminations and reductions. Finally, Pace has outlined \$2.7 million of non-service related cost reductions that are unchanged from the proposed budget. These include five unpaid furlough days for all nonunion employees, increased nonunion employee healthcare contributions, and reductions to the budgets for marketing, fuel, and certain types of insurance.

“The impacts of the current economic crisis are the direct cause of the service reductions that remain,” said Kwasneski. “If the economy hadn’t collapsed, we would be expanding service right now instead of going through reductions and eliminations. Sales tax receipts are \$23 million below what was projected at the beginning of 2008 when new transit funding was approved by the General Assembly.”

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## **Pace Cost Reduction Plan 2**

### **Pace Suburban Bus 2010 Route Reduction/Elimination Plan Implementation Date: February 7, 2010**

#### **Routes eliminated - 15**

451 Southeast Homewood  
452 Northeast Homewood  
460 Hazel Crest  
535 Fox Valley Shuttle  
637 Wood Dale – Rosemont CTA  
643/645 NW Elmhurst – Elmhurst Industrial  
654 South Glen Ellyn  
657 Bloomingdale/Glendale Heights  
690 Arlington Heights Road  
750 Country Club Hills  
753 Matteson  
767 Congress/Douglas – Prairie Stone  
781 North Naperville Office Complex  
1012 Evergreen Park – Prairie Stone

#### **Weekend service eliminated - 9**

209 Busse Highway (Sunday ONLY – Saturday service remains)  
234 Wheeling – Des Plaines (Saturday)  
304 Cicero – LaGrange (Saturday and Sunday)  
320 Madison Street (Saturday)  
422 Linden CTA – Glenview – Northbrook Court (Saturday)  
423 Linden CTA – The Glen – Harlem CTA (Saturday)  
528 Aurora Trans. Ctr. – Rush Copley Medical (Saturday)  
715 Central DuPage (Saturday)  
747 DuPage Connection (Saturday)

#### **Service reduced - 9**

210 Lincoln Avenue  
326 West Irving Park  
362 Park Forest  
685 Naperville – West Wind Estates  
696 Woodfield – Arlington Heights – Randhurst  
699 Palatine – Woodfield – Elk Grove  
747 DuPage Connection  
821 Woodridge – Belmont  
822 Woodridge – Lisle

#### **Service remains unchanged (service day proposed to be affected, where applicable) - 18**

208 Golf Road (Sunday)  
223 Elk Grove – Rosemont CTA (Sunday)  
302 Ogden/Stanley (Saturday)  
315 Austin/Ridgeland (Saturday)  
348 138<sup>th</sup> St. Riverdale Corridor (Saturday)

*continued*

### **Pace Cost Reduction Plan 3**

366 Park Forest – Chicago Heights (Sunday)

367 University Park (Saturday)

529 Randall Road – 5<sup>th</sup> Street (Saturday)

616 The Chancellory Connection

626 Skokie Valley Limited

661 Southwest Westmont

668 Burr Ridge – Hinsdale

669 Western Springs – Indian Head Park

676 Naperville – Cress Creek

687 Naperville – Farmstead

689 Naperville – Hobson Village

711 Wheaton – Addison

757 Northwest Connection