



The Village of Oak Park
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October 21, 2004

Honorable July Hamos, Chair
House Special Committee on Mass Transit
State House
Springfield, Illinois 62706

Dear Representative Hamos,

As Village President of the Village of Oak Park and on behalf of the Village Board, I am writing to share Oak Park's position on funding for public transit.

I have enclosed a copy of the resolution the Oak Park Village Board unanimously approved earlier this week. As outlined by the resolution, the Village of Oak Park supports the position unanimously adopted by the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) Board urging the General Assembly to provide additional funding for all three transit agencies serving northeastern Illinois. As you may know, Oak Park is served by Metra, PACE, and CTA and is uniquely situated to offer a balanced perspective. The Village of Oak Park advocates providing additional funding to each public transit agency as called for by the RTA Board.

There is clearly a need to provide funds to supporting existing transit services as overall operational funding levels have not even kept up with inflation. There is also an even greater need to enhance public transit options and services to deal with the growing congestion in the entire region. In the western Cook County suburbs alone there is a significant unmet need for public transportation improvements and services. The Village of Oak Park urges everyone in the region to join together in support of the RTA endorsed call for additional funding for Metra, PACE and CTA. Increased operating support for public transit would be a major positive step toward enabling all of our northeastern Illinois public transit agencies to better address the economic and environmental burden congestion increasingly places on our region by allowing each to continue to operate and provide a solid base from which to enhance public transportation services serving people across the whole region.

Thank you for your consideration of this important issue. I would appreciate it if you would incorporate this letter and the attached resolution to the members of the Special Committee and incorporate these documents into the official hearing record.

Sincerely,
VILLAGE OF OAK PARK

Joanne Trapani
Village President

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING INCREASED PUBLIC TRANSIT
FUNDING FOR NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS**

WHEREAS, maintenance of adequate public transportation is an “essential public purpose,” as recognized by Article XIII, Section 7 of the Illinois Constitution of 1970; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Oak Park is uniquely served by all of the three public transportation service agencies in northeastern Illinois (Chicago Transit Authority (CTA), PACE and METRA); and

WHEREAS, the preservation, improvement and expansion of public transportation services in Oak Park is in the best interests of preserving the quality of life for the residents, visitors and business community of the Village of Oak Park; and

WHEREAS, public transportation is a regional resource, improving the quality of life for all residents of Northeastern Illinois through reduced traffic congestion, cleaner air, and a more efficient and productive economy; and

WHEREAS, as demonstrated by the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) Board through its September 10, 2004 adoption of alternative statutory funding ordinances commencing the 2005 budget process for the RTA and its service boards (CTA, PACE and METRA), existing funding services and mechanisms do not provide adequate resources to maintain current transportation services; and

WHEREAS, appropriate legislative action by the Illinois General Assembly is required to give effect to the RTA resolution and anticipated service Board alternative budget resolutions; and

WHEREAS, the unmet demand for and need for improvements in public transportation services in the west suburban Cook County area alone are substantial; and,

WHEREAS, the existing funding formula found in the Regional Transportation Authority Act, which has not been changed in approximately 20 years to address and consider transit service funding challenges and needs from a regional perspective;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Village President and Board of Trustees of the Village of Oak Park, Illinois, as follows:

SECTION 1: The Whereas paragraphs above are incorporated and made a part of this Section 1 as if fully set forth herein.

SECTION 2: That the Village President and Board of Trustees of the Village of Oak Park concur with the RTA that the Illinois General Assembly should act to increase transit funding for all three of the transit agencies serving Oak Park, suburban Cook

County and the entire region, in order to avoid significant cuts in service by increasing operating funding to the levels set out by the RTA Board on September 10, 2004; and

SECTION 3: That the Village President and Board of Trustees of the Village of Oak Park urges the Illinois General Assembly to take such action as is necessary and appropriate to increase operating funding to the levels established by the Regional Transportation Authority on September 10, 2004; and

SECTION 4: That the Village President and Board of Trustees directs that the Village Clerk provide copies of this resolution to the RTA, METRA, PACE, CTA, the Honorable Governor Blagojevich, Senator Emil Jones, Jr., President of the Illinois Senate, Representative Michael J. Madigan, Speaker of the Illinois House, Senator Frank Watson, Senate Minority Leader, Representative Tom Cross, House Minority Leader, and all of the Village of Oak Park's duly elected representatives in the General Assembly.

THIS RESOLUTION shall be in full force and effect from and after its adoption and approval as provided by law.

ADOPTED this 18th day of October, 2004, pursuant to a roll call vote as follows:

AYES:

NAYS:

ABSENT:

ADOPTED AND APPROVED by me this 18th day of October, 2004.

Joanne E. Trapani
Village President

ATTEST:

Sandra Sokol
Village Clerk