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Oak Park Shuttle Nominated for Public Transportation Innovation Award

The Oak Park Shuttle has been nominated by Pace Suburban Bus Service for the *American Public Transportation Association Innovation Award* given annually by the not-for-profit APTA to recognize innovative concepts in public transportation services.

Launched in March 2004, the Oak Park Shuttle is a free community circulator system connecting business districts, tourist sites, government offices and public transit stops, such as Pace and CTA bus stops, and CTA and Metra rail lines. Two wheelchair accessible vans traverse a route that includes 21 stops at 30-minute intervals along an eight-mile course, from 10 a.m. – 5:30 p.m., seven days a week except major holidays. Hours are extended to 9:30 p.m. between Memorial Day and Labor Day.

The Shuttle originally was developed in partnership with the Pace Municipal Vanpool Program to test a community-based public transportation service. In the first year of service, more than 17,000 riders took the shuttle, prompting the Village Board to extend the program and incorporate it into the base municipal services budget. At the six-month point in last year's test period, Pace officials indicated that the Oak Park Shuttle was their model for a successful community circulator in the Chicago region, an approach to community based services embodied in Pace's long-term plan, *Vision 2020*.

Shuttle vans are provided by Pace and mechanics in the Fleet Shop of the Public Works Department maintain them. Future plans include working with PACE to secure vehicles that are not only larger, more attractive and more easily accessible, but are also environmentally friendly. The goal is to eventually have vehicles that use clean fuels, have a more historic appearance and offer easy side access.

For more information on the Oak Park Shuttle, call 358-5778 or email village@oak-park.us. For route and schedule information, call 615.1830. A route map and schedule is available on the Village website, www.oak-park.us.

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