



Transit in Illinois

Public transit is a critical component of Illinois' multimodal transportation system. Illinois has made significant growth in the area of public transportation over the past decade. In recent years, IDOT has worked with regional groups to develop coordinated public transportation-human service transportation plans throughout the State. Additionally, Illinois has seen dramatic growth in new and expanded public transportation services in the rural areas of the State. State capital programs have provided needed funding for transit projects throughout the state, yet the need for additional funding to maintain a state of good repair and enhance Illinois' public transportation system is still needed.

Did you know...

- Illinois ranks 3rd in transit ridership across the nation with approximately 680 million rides in 2013, trailing only New York and California.¹
- Illinois ranks 5th in federal funding received for transit (\$509 million in 2013), trailing New York, California, Texas, and New Jersey.
- Illinois ranks 7th in state funding support for transit.²

Chicago/Northeastern Illinois

- The Regional Transportation Authority's three service boards – the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA), Metra, Pace – provide more than 636 million rides annually, comprising the 2nd largest public transportation system in the United States.
- 516 million rail and bus rides were provided by the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) in 2015, or approximately 1.4 million rides per day.³
- CTA bus ridership has declined 12 percent since 2012, rail rides rose approximately 5 percent over that same span to a record-high of 241.7 million⁴
- A 2014 study by the University of North Carolina's School of Government found that CTA service effectively decreases vehicle traffic on Chicago's roadways by approximately 400,000 cars each day⁵
- Metra provided approximately 83 million passenger trips in 2015, with an average weekday ridership of approximately 292,000.⁶
- Metra is the second-largest commuter rail system in America, with more than twice the ridership of the next largest system (SEPTA Regional Rail in Philadelphia).
- Pace's suburban bus system provided 30.4 million rides in 2015, or approximately 107,000 rides each weekday
- Pace also provided or facilitated approximately 7.7 million rides via specialized transportation including paratransit, vanpool and dial-a-ride services in 2015.

Downstate Illinois

- The 14 fixed route urban bus systems operating in Illinois downstate area provided nearly 40 million rides in 2013.
- Ridership in downstate Illinois has grown at rates of between two and five percent each year since 2008.
- Six million demand response rides were provided in Downstate counties in 2013.
- In total, more than 93 percent of the population in Downstate Illinois has access to some form of public transportation.



1 National Transit Database, 2013 • 2 Ibid • 3 CTA Ridership Reports • 4 Ibid

5 <https://onlinempa.unc.edu/5-largest-us-public-transit-systems-infographic> • 6 Metra System Ridership Report