



The Commuter connection

Sign Up for a Guaranteed Ride Home

The City of Naperville's new Guaranteed Ride Home Program offers commuters who use Pace bus service to access the city's Metra stations more flexibility in their transit schedule by guaranteeing a ride home should they need to return to their residence when the feeder route buses are not in service.

Funded through the City of Naperville's Burlington Fund, the Guaranteed Ride Home Program offers commuters who use Pace bus service to access the downtown Naperville or Route 59 Metra stations reimbursement for travel costs if they need to return unexpectedly. Registered Pace commuters may be eligible to receive up to 12 vouchers annually that will allow them to take a taxi from one of the Metra stations to their home or designated Park-n-Ride. All Guaranteed Ride Home participants must register for the program in order to qualify for reimbursement.

Once registered, the participants are eligible to travel by taxi at any time when Pace buses are not in service. Upon completion of the trip, the commuter will pay for the fare and request a receipt to document the taxi cab company, date and time of travel. To receive reimbursement, commuters are required to submit the receipt and voucher to the city within 10 calendar days of the taxi cab trip.

All registration applications for the Guaranteed Ride Home Program will be reviewed by city staff and a predetermined reimbursement rate will be calculated for each participant based on the distance between the individual's home and his or her preferred Metra station. If the participant uses a Park-n-Ride, the distance between the station and the Park-n-Ride lot will be used to determine the reimbursement rate. To view the complete rules and regulations for the Guaranteed Ride Home Program, or to enroll online, visit www.naperville.il.us/guaranteedridehome.aspx.

Naperville Commuters Received More Than 16,500 Free Rides in October 2008

Naperville's commuters received more than 16,500 free rides to the city's Metra stations aboard Pace buses in October 2008 as part of the Free Ride Program. Of those free rides, more than 11,500 were on the Park-n-Ride routes and more than 5,000 were on the Pace neighborhood Metra feeder routes.

The Free Ride Program, funded through the City of Naperville's Burlington Commuter Parking Fund, was intended to help increase transit ridership, promote the local transit system and achieve the city's transportation goals to reduce congestion and improve air quality.

During the Free Ride Program, the City of Naperville provided free rides on the three Pace Park-n-Ride routes that travel to the Route 59 Metra station and on the 15 Pace neighborhood Metra feeder routes that serve the Downtown Naperville Metra station. Free rides were available Monday through Friday from the Park-n-Ride lots and every Tuesday on the Pace Metra feeder routes.

There were more than 150 additional riders per day on Naperville's Pace Metra feeder routes and Park-n-Ride routes in October 2008 versus October 2007. This represents an increase of nearly 20 percent.

How Do I Enroll?

Interested commuters may enroll in the Guaranteed Ride Home Program in person at the City of Naperville's Finance Department, located in the Naperville Municipal Center, 400 S. Eagle St., or online at www.naperville.il.us/guaranteedridehome.aspx. Enrollment forms are also available for pick-up at the downtown Naperville and Route 59 Metra stations and can be submitted to the city via mail or in person to the city's Finance Department.



City Continues to Encourage Public Participation in the Fifth Avenue Study

Public participation continues to be an integral part of the planning process for the Fifth Avenue Study. On Thursday, February 19, 2009, at 7 p.m. in the Lunchroom of the Naperville Municipal Center, 400 S. Eagle St., the City of Naperville will host a public open house to present the study's preliminary alternatives and respond to initial questions from the public. Information regarding the preliminary alternatives will be available for review at a series of stations organized by topic. Representatives from the city will be available at each station to answer questions and provide clarification. Following the meeting on February 19, the preliminary alternatives for future land use, commuter parking and multi-modal circulation improvements, and streetscape improvements (Washington Street only) will be available for review and comment on the city's Web site at www.naperville.il.us/fifthavenue.aspx.

The open house will provide an opportunity for the public to seek clarification in advance of a joint forum before the Plan Commission and Transportation Advisory Board, scheduled for Thursday, March 5, 2009, at 7 p.m. in Meeting Rooms A, B and C at the Naperville Municipal Center. Public input regarding the preliminary alternatives will be accepted at the joint forum before the Plan Commission and Transportation Advisory Board.

The City of Naperville is conducting the Fifth Avenue Study to evaluate land use, commuter parking and multi-modal circulation (i.e., vehicle, bicycle, pedestrian and public transit circulation) in the vicinity of the Naperville train station. Land use, site access, parking and streetscape will also be evaluated for properties along both sides of Washington Street between Benton Avenue and Ogden Avenue.

The purpose of the Fifth Avenue Study is to establish recommendations that will guide potential redevelopment, parking, transportation and streetscape improvements within the study area, an important gateway to downtown Naperville and one of the city's commuter hubs, while maintaining cohesiveness with the existing character of the neighborhood.

To learn more about the Fifth Avenue Study and the upcoming public meetings, visit www.naperville.il.us/fifthavenue.aspx.

Don't Drive. Ride!

The City of Naperville offers residents, visitors and commuters an abundance of convenient, low-cost transit options to get to and from a variety of destinations. Using public transit provides many benefits, including saving money on gas, eliminating the time and frustration of finding a parking space and providing convenient curbside pick-up and drop off.

Metra serves the downtown Naperville and Route 59 train stations, while Pace Suburban Bus offers service to connect these transit hubs to area stores and restaurants. Both of these transit services provide a link between Naperville and other surrounding communities, making the service a great option for Naperville residents as well as visitors.

To view the routes and connecting routes for Pace Routes 530 and 714, visit www.pacebus.com. For more information on riding Metra, visit www.metrarail.com. For more information on public transit in Naperville, visit www.naperville.il.us/transit.aspx.

Pace Route 714 provides service Monday through Friday from 6:20 a.m. to 6:45 p.m. to:

- Edward Hospital
- Downtown Naperville
- Naperville Metra Station
- Ogden Mall
- Danada Shopping Center
- Wheaton Town Square
- Downtown Wheaton
- Wheaton Metra Station

Pace Route 530 provides service Monday through Friday from 6 a.m. to 6:45 p.m., with limited service until 10 p.m., and on Saturday and Sunday from 7 a.m. to 6:45 p.m. to:

- Edward Hospital
- Downtown Naperville
- Naperville Metra Station
- Naper West Plaza
- Westfield Shopping Center
- Aurora Metra Station
- West Aurora Plaza.

The regular Pace Bus fare is \$1.75. A reduced fare of \$.85 is available to people with an RTA Reduced Fare Card, students, and people with disabilities.

Construction Work Begins at the 75th and Washington Intersection

Periodic daytime lane closures are now in effect in the vicinity of Washington Street and 75th Street. The periodic lane closures will continue until March 2009, at which time major road and bridge construction is slated to begin. Traffic will be reduced to one lane in each direction on 75th and Washington Streets at this time.

The City of Naperville encourages motorists to seek alternate routes or consider taking public transit through the duration of the intersection improvement project, which is slated for completion in 2011. Motorists planning to travel through the intersection during construction should expect delays.

Pace Bus is currently evaluating detour options for Route 678. More information will be available on this detour in the coming months.

Alternate Routes during Construction

During construction, the city is encouraging all motorists to avoid local neighborhood streets and recommends seeking alternate routes via other arterial roadways. For north/south travel, Naper Boulevard, Plainfield/Naperville Road, West Street and Route 59 are preferred options. For east/west travel, Chicago Avenue, Aurora Avenue, Ogden Avenue, Diehl Road, 87th Street, Royce Road, Boughton Road and 111th Street are preferred alternate routes.

For motorists who live or work in the area surrounding the Washington and 75th Street intersection, seek alternate routes on local collector streets or consider using Pace Bus service. Collector streets convey traffic out of the neighborhoods to the arterial streets, with a goal of reducing the traffic on other residential streets. Collector streets in the area include Modaff Road, Gartner Road, Olesen Road and Bailey Road.

About the Intersection Improvement Project

Several improvements are planned for the intersection to improve traffic flow and enhance the safety of motorists and pedestrians. One additional through lane of traffic, one additional left turn lane and a dedicated right turn lane in each direction will be added. In addition, the DuPage River Trail from Hobson Road to Bunting Lane will be completed and two new underpasses will be built to allow pedestrians and bicyclists to pass beneath both 75th Street and Washington Street. For more information, or to sign up to receive e-News alerts about this project, visit www.naperville.il.us/75andwashimprovements.aspx.

Columbia Street Bridge Rehabilitation Scheduled for Spring 2009

In spring 2009, the City of Naperville plans to conduct maintenance work on the Columbia Street Bridge, located east of the downtown Naperville Metra Station. Roughly 10,000 vehicles cross the bridge each day. By performing this routine maintenance, the city is helping to extend the lifespan of the bridge, which crosses over the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) Railway tracks, and ensuring the safety of those who travel over it.

The Columbia Street Bridge rehabilitation project includes the replacement of the bridge joints and replacement of the asphalt pavement on the bridge.

The bridge will be closed for a portion of the construction work. As always, the City of Naperville will try to limit the impact of this project on commuters and residents as much as possible. Advance notification will be provided for road closures or other construction-related activities which may impact commuting times. Additional information on construction activities and potential impacts to traffic will be made public once the final engineering for the project has been completed in mid-February 2009.

For more information on the Columbia Street Bridge rehabilitation project, visit the City of Naperville Web site at www.naperville.il.us/columbiastreetbridge.aspx.

Did You Know?

75th Street and Washington Street are two of Naperville's major arterial roadways. The intersection is currently over capacity with more than 65,000 vehicles traveling through this intersection on a typical day. By 2025, the city anticipates more than 77,000 vehicles will pass through the intersection daily.

New Pace Fares Now in Effect

Effective January 1, 2009, Pace Suburban Bus implemented a fare increase and established a single fare structure for all of its routes.

The regular adult fare for all Pace Bus routes is now \$1.75. This represents a \$0.25 fare increase on traditional routes, such as Routes 530 and 714, and a \$0.50 fare increase for all Metra Feeder routes, including the neighborhood feeder routes and the Park-n-Ride routes. In addition to the increase in bus fares, vanpool fares also increased by 10 percent on January 1. Additional fare changes have been implemented for the 10-Ride tickets and Metra Link Up Pass, which is an unlimited monthly pass valid on both Pace and the CTA.

10-Ride tickets are subsidized by the City of Naperville for a discounted rate of \$14 (regular \$17.50) and are available for purchase at the Naperville and Route 59 Metra stations. The Metra Link Up Pass has increased by \$3 and is now \$39.

Fares for the Metra Plus Bus Pass, which allows Metra riders to purchase an unlimited monthly Pace pass, did not increase. It remains at \$30 per month. Pace also offers a reduced regular fare of \$.85 for people with an RTA Reduced Fare Card, students, and people with disabilities. For more information on Pace Suburban Bus Service, visit www.pacebus.com.



Amtrak Offers Discount in Celebration of Lincoln's Birthday

Amtrak passengers are receiving a 20 percent discount on adult fares in celebration of Abraham Lincoln's 200th birthday. The discount is valid on the following Illinois trains: Lincoln Service, Illini, Saluki, Carl Sandburg, and Illinois Zephyr. The promotional fare is valid through June 30, 2009, by using Discount Code V574. Restrictions may apply. Visit www.amtrak.com or call 1-800 USA RAIL for more details.

For the latest commuter news, sign up for the
Commuter Connection e-Newsletter at
www.naperville.il.us/enews.aspx.

For more information on public transit options in Naperville, visit
www.naperville.il.us/transit.aspx.

For more information, contact:
Jennifer Ebel, Transportation Planner
Phone: (630) 305-5315
E-Mail: ebelj@naperville.il.us

Karyn Robles, Transportation and Planning Team Leader
Phone: (630) 548-1133
E-Mail: roblesk@naperville.il.us