



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Pace commemorates opening of new I-90/IL25 Park-n-Ride Station

Free park-n-ride lot has 199 spots to accommodate growing ridership along the I-90 corridor



L-R: Greg Bedalov, Executive Director, Illinois Tollway; Elsa Hernandez, State Representative Anna Moeller's Office; Terry L. Gavin, Elgin City Council; Mayor David Kaptain, Elgin; Chairman Richard A. Kwasneski, Pace; Senator Christina Castro, Illinois 22nd District; Chairman Bob Schillerstrom, Illinois Tollway; Rebecca Gillam, Kane County Board; Mayor Jeffery D. Schielke, Batavia, and Pace Board of Directors; Director Terrance Carr, Pace Board of Directors; Rosemaria Martinez, Elgin City Council; T.J. Ross, Executive Director, Pace.

ARLINGTON HEIGHTS, IL – Officials from Pace and the Illinois Tollway joined State Senator Christina Castro and Elgin Mayor Dave Kaptain on Monday, December 18, 2017, to celebrate the opening of the Pace I-90/IL 25 Park-n-Ride Station. The station boasts a 199-spot free parking lot and sits on the I-90 on ramp to provide buses easy access to the Tollway and minimize travel times. Routes 603, 605, and 607 operate between the station and Schaumburg or Rosemont to provide connections to other Pace bus routes and the CTA Blue Line. Many Elgin, Dundee, and Carpentersville commuters can access the station by using Route 543 which stops about a block away on IL 25 (Dundee Road).

“Every \$10 million of capital investment in public transportation yields approximately \$32 million in increased business sales,” Chairman Richard Kwasneski reported as he welcomed guests. “That’s good for our economy and allows Pace to provide safe and reliable public transportation. Our service helps the region’s residents access employment, medical centers, education, shopping, and all that northeastern Illinois has to offer.” Park-n-rides like this one along the I-55 corridor reach capacity almost as soon as they open thanks to significant ridership increases attributed to the Bus on Shoulder program. A dedicated lane that allows buses to bypass traffic makes service more reliable, and thus more attractive to commuters. I-55 corridor service is now on-time on over 90% of trips. When service operated in mixed traffic, on-time performance was only about 65%.

Senator Christina Castro offered congratulations to the project team and talked about how her husband uses the service. “One of the only people more excited about this project than me is my husband. He takes the bus to the Blue Line to go downtown and doesn’t have to deal with traffic or parking downtown.” Route 603, which starts at the Elgin Transportation Center, and Route 605, which begins at the I-90/Randall Road Park-n-Ride Station, both offer connections to the CTA Blue Line and other Pace bus routes at the Rosemont Transit Center.

“The Park-n-Ride facilities are important options for commuters by providing them with seamless travel throughout the I-90 corridor and they are another step in achieving our vision of a shared regional transportation network that includes partners like Pace,” said Illinois Tollway Board Chairman Bob Schillerstrom. “It’s a vision that has made possible a reliable and convenient option for our customers to access jobs, business parks, retail and entertainment venues, hospitals and educational facilities throughout the Northwest suburbs and Chicago. As we move to rebuild the Central Tri-State Tollway, we will continue to work with Pace to create similar options for our customers.”

Mayor Dave Kaptain was also in attendance. “I couldn’t be more pleased that Elgin residents now have more access than ever to quality public transportation. I have one question for Pace though,” he joked. “Why 199 spots? We couldn’t fit in one more spot for an even 200?”

In 2018, Pace's most innovative transportation facility will open to the public. The Pace I-90/Barrington Road Park-n-Ride Station will boast the region's first-ever on-highway bus stop. This will allow employees and residents in Chicago and the northwest suburbs fast access to their homes, workplaces, or connecting bus routes. A pedestrian bridge over the Tollway, bike racks, improved sidewalks, and 170 free parking spaces will help riders complete their journey. The Pace I-90/Barrington Road Park-n-Ride Station will be served by Routes 603, 605, 607, and a new local area distributor route.

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Pace is Chicagoland's suburban bus and regional paratransit provider. Pace's family of public transportation services also includes vanpool, rideshare matching, community-based transportation programs, and, soon, Pulse, Pace's new rapid transit network. Learn more at [PaceBus.com/Pulse](https://www.pacebus.com/pulse).