

- **Introducing the Chicago Streetcar: Cost-Effective Rapid Transit for a Growing City** (*John Krause – Chicago Streetcar Renaissance*)

Chicago Streetcar Renaissance is a non-profit formed to plan and advocate for a network of modern streetcars in Chicago.

The Chicago Streetcar is a high-capacity, low-floor, electric railway operating on city streets like a European tramway. It runs with priority in its lane and at traffic signals, so it never gets stuck in traffic. It uses low-floor vehicles with level boarding right from the sidewalk and runs on clean, renewable wind power generated by Illinois farmers.

The Chicago Streetcar upgrades some of our busiest bus routes to faster and more cost-effective rail service. Where ridership is high enough, long streetcars cost less than buses because each driver carries several times as many people. Our proposed routes carry several times as many riders per mile as the average CTA train line, but cost 10 percent as much to build. It's a cost-effective way to expand rapid transit, a complement to BRT at the high end of the ridership spectrum.

The streetcar is a proven catalyst for dense, mixed-use, walkable urban development built around rapid transit and local shopping. It boosts property values and the foot traffic that drives local business.

The streetcar expands the capacity of the street and reduces the congestion of cars driving into and parking downtown. It's a model for growth without congestion; for growing our population and economy while making Chicago easier to get around in and more convenient to live in every year.

