• Asset Management Program at the Regional Transportation Authority (Bea Reyna-Hickey – Regional Transportation Authority)

The Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) is responsible for planning, funding, and oversight of all public transportation in northeastern Illinois. This network serves the third largest US transit market. With some of the nation’s oldest transit assets in the nation, though, RTA and its three Service Boards (CTA, Metra and Pace) face significant and growing reinvestment needs to attain and maintain a state of good repair (SGR).

This presentation will examine how one of the country’s largest, oldest, multi-modal, multi-agency transit systems has developed and implemented an annual process to track changes in asset conditions and SGR reinvestment needs at the regional, agency, mode and asset levels. The scope of study for this presentation is first the qualification and quantification of the scope of the region’s SGR “problem.” Second, the presentation will address the formulation of strategies to address the growing backlog of needs and ongoing required investments in a challenging fiscal environment.

The methods used by RTA will also be explored in the presentation. These include, but are not limited to: ongoing agency commitment, close collaboration with regional stakeholders; gradual refinement of regional inventories of assets, in-field condition assessments, implementation of the Capital Optimization Support Tool (COST), project prioritization, and outreach to decision makers.

RTA will present results from the five-year effort to date in terms of the regional backlog of needs, and 10-year capital need for reinvestment. The speaker will also discuss the current shortfall in terms of revenue generating strategies envisioned now and in the future, and how RTA is positioning for emerging new Federal requirements for asset management.