WORKSHOP A: Pace Transit Supportive Guidelines | Moderator: Charlotte O'Donnell – Pace Suburban Bus

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To have access to effective public transit, every step of the user’s trip must be accessible, efficient, safe, and comfortable. The transit system must eliminate barriers—real or perceived—in order to make it a viable or preferred alternative to the personal automobile. The goal of these Design Guidelines for Transit Supportive Communities is to foster reliable, efficient, convenient, and accessible transit, from the customer’s front door to his or her final destination.

Pace would like to get involved in municipal and private planning processes at the very beginning—even in communities not currently served by Pace. If new development is transit friendly, Pace will be able to serve that area in the future without the costs associated with retrofitting the roadway. This is an expensive and time consuming process that often prevents Pace from providing effective service. Infrastructure built today typically has a 20-50 year lifespan. If this development does not accommodate transit by integrating Pace’s guidelines, communities risk being precluded from service in the future.

Pace’s Transit Supportive Guidelines for the Chicagoland Region present principles and standards that may be implemented by municipalities, designers, engineers, and many others. Ultimately, it is Pace’s vision to provide a higher level of bus service to places that actively remove barriers to transit as a viable transportation choice. Workshop participants work in small groups to make pedestrian and transit friendly upgrades to a transit corridor. Participants will have a “menu” of transit accommodations from which to choose, and they will be asked to stay within a budget.