

- **Updating Transit in Lake County: From Heritage System to Multi-Nodal Network**  
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Like many communities in the outer Chicago suburbs, Waukegan was historically an independent city, with its own transit network. It was the economic and commercial center for much of Lake County, and the transit network reflected that for many years. Today, the growth of Chicago has led to Waukegan's relative importance diminishing in comparison to its neighbors. Places like Gurnee, Grayslake and Libertyville have grown exponentially as economic realities have changed, yet the transit network did not fully adapt, with most routes being radial in nature and based on a single timed transfer point in Waukegan.

In 2011, Pace Suburban Bus partnered with the Lake County Division of Transportation and Cambridge Systematics to conduct a transit market analysis of Lake County. The resulting report helped identify opportunities, and late in 2013 Pace took the first steps to reform the transit network into a more decentralized system. Rather than a single radial network with a single transfer point, the new system has three timed transfer points spread out throughout the northern half of the county. While no new corridors were served, the new structure helps prepare the network for future growth and creating new transfer opportunities in new growth parts of the county. Key to this project was the establishment of strong partnerships between community stakeholders, which helped smooth the transition and save resources and capital construction costs. This presentation will discuss the background of this project, the crucial cooperative efforts that led to successful implementation, and future network development strategy.