

Transit Advocacy in Chicago and the *Back on the Bus* Campaign



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Active Transportation Alliance

About the Active Transportation Alliance



- Not-for-profit advocacy organization
- Promote walking, bicycling and public transit to create healthy, sustainable and equitable communities
- Serve Chicago metro region
- 20,000+ supporters

How are Chicagoans currently getting around?

WORK TRIPS



City of Chicago (2016)	
Cars/other	58.9%
Transit	28.2%
Walking	6.6%
Biking	1.7%

% of residents riding transit to work (2016)	
New York City	57%
Washington, D.C.	36%
San Francisco	34%
Boston	33%
Chicago	28%
Philadelphia	24%

U.S. Census Bureau – American Communities Survey

Chicago transit is falling behind



Among the six largest metro areas with “legacy” transit systems plus Los Angeles, the Chicago region is last in all of the following categories: ridership growth, system expansion, transit-friendly development, and per capita transit spending.

Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, Metropolitan Governance of Transport and Land Use in Chicago, 2014

Making the case for investment in bus service

Annual CTA Bus Ridership

2016	259.1 million
2015	274.3 million
2014	276.1 million
2013	300.1 million
2012	314.4 million
2011	310.4 million
2010	306.0 million
2009	318.7 million
2008	328.2 million
2007	309.3 million

Average Weekday Bus Speeds

2015	9.03 mph
2014	9.08 mph
2013	9.12 mph
2012	9.19 mph
2011	9.18 mph
2010	9.46 mph
2009	9.55 mph
2008	9.70 mph
2007	9.83 mph

Bus Lane Miles

New York City	82.8 miles
Miami	39.8 miles
Los Angeles	35.4 miles
Seattle	34.8 miles
San Francisco	27.0 miles
Chicago	4.1 miles

Priority Improvements



1. Dedicated bus lanes
2. Traffic signal improvements
3. Faster boarding

Policy Recommendations



1. Create a plan for Transit Priority Streets with 50 miles of new bus lanes
2. Create effective ways to enforce bus-only lanes
3. Incentivize purchase of multi-day passes
4. Establish a local dedicated revenue stream to fund transit improvements and expansion
5. Push for more data sharing and analysis of ride-hailing trips