



Moving FORWARD

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Pace thanks Will County stakeholders for support for capital improvements, rolls out new and improved bus fleet

As mentioned in previous issues of *Moving Forward*, Pace will benefit from the capital improvement plans passed by the state legislature to the tune of \$205 million over the next five years. The funds are critical as Pace will gradually replace older buses in its fleet while also adding passenger amenities and making improvements to garages and facilities.

At Pace Heritage Division, which operates the routes serving the Joliet area, capital investment has allowed the agency to work toward replacing its entire fleet of 22 buses with new, 30-foot Eldorado E-Z Rider coaches that offer superior fuel mileage, cleaner emissions, and reduced operating costs.

To thank legislators and other area elected officials and stakeholders for their efforts and to showcase the vehicles that resulted from their advocacy, Pace hosted a vehicle dedication Monday at the Will County Office Building in downtown Joliet. Those who spoke were Pace Chairman of the Board Richard Kwasneski, Pace Board member Frank Mitchell, State Senator A.J. Wilhelmi, State Senator Linda Holmes, State Representative Emily McAsey, Will County Executive Larry Walsh, Will County Board Chairman James Moustis, RTA Board member J.D. Ross, Mayor Joe Cook of the Village of Channahon and President of the Will County Governmental League and Joliet City Manager Tom Thanas.

"We want to not only thank our elected officials for their leadership and efforts to invest in Pace capital, but take the opportunity to show them the very real effects of those efforts," said Pace Chairman of the Board Richard Kwasneski. "These elected officials can feel proud that they've directly improved the reliability of some of their constituents' access to work, school, and other needs, while helping Pace reduce its overall efficiency through reduced maintenance costs."

14 of the new buses are already operating at Heritage Division, with eight more to come shortly. There are also twelve new paratransit vehicles in operation in Will County.



Elected officials join Pace in dedicating the new bus fleet operating in the Joliet area out of Pace's Heritage Division.

Pace to provide transportation for disabled veterans competing in marathon

The Bank of America Chicago Marathon is widely recognized as an endurance competition of some of the world's finest athletes. Among the entrants in this year's marathon are a team of disabled U.S. military veterans visiting Chicagoland to compete, and Pace will provide their transportation on the day of the race.

Congressman Daniel Lipinski, who contacted Pace on behalf of the veterans, said, "The bravery of these men and women can be seen not only in the wounds they received in the course of defending our freedom, but in their refusal to let those wounds slow them down. They remind us both of the extreme danger that our troops are facing every day, and the power to overcome tremendous adversity that lies within all of us. I wish all of them the best of luck in Sunday's race. I am sure it will be an experience they will not forget."

Pace Chairman Richard Kwasneski said, "We were more than happy to offer our services to these brave men and women who fought for our country, and will proudly compete in the Chicago Marathon. We thank them for their service, their sacrifice, and the inspiration they instill in others."