

**THE CIVIC FEDERATION,  
THE FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF CHICAGO  
AND THE CIVIC COMMITTEE OF THE  
COMMERCIAL CLUB OF CHICAGO PRESENT:**



## **PUBLIC TRANSIT IN A POST-COVID WORLD:**

BUILDING A FINANCIALLY STABLE, EQUITABLE  
AND ACCESSIBLE MASS TRANSIT SYSTEM IN CHICAGO  
AND BEYOND

THURSDAY, APRIL 13, 2023  
8:15 A.M. - 1:30 P.M.

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF CHICAGO  
230 SOUTH LASALLE STREET  
3RD FLOOR  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS



**Civic Committee**  
COMMERCIAL CLUB OF CHICAGO



# AGENDA



## PUBLIC TRANSIT IN A POST-COVID WORLD

APRIL 13, 2023

8:15 a.m. to 8:45 a.m.

### REGISTRATION AND CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

Badge Pick Up and Security Inspection in the Lobby

8:45 a.m. to 9:15 a.m.

### WELCOME

### HISTORY OF MASS TRANSIT FUNDING IN THE CHICAGO REGION

Sarah Wetmore, Acting President, *Civic Federation*

9:15 a.m. - **BREAK**

9:30 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.

### PANEL 1 : SOLVING THE TRANSIT FUNDING RIDDLE IN NORTHEAST ILLINOIS AND BEYOND

Transit systems across the United States face prolonged ridership shortfalls, safety concerns and a federal funding cliff after COVID-19 relief funds are expended. If the Regional Transportation Authority and its service boards are to weather the storm, it will require an all hands on deck approach, including coordination between transit agencies and the General Assembly, the Governor and local governments. What would an ideal and sustainable governance and funding structure look like? Can the CTA, Metra and Pace sustain service levels and avoid fare hikes? How can riders' safety be enhanced?

#### MODERATOR

The Honorable Julie Hamos, Former Chair of the Illinois House of Representatives  
Mass Transit Committee

#### PANELISTS

Joseph Schwieterman, Professor in the School of Public Service and Director of  
the Chaddick Institute for Metropolitan Development, *DePaul University*

Senator Ram Villivalam, Illinois State Senator, *8th District*

Andrew Ward, Group Credit Officer for US Public Finance, *Fitch Ratings*

10:45 a.m. - **BREAK**

11:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

**PANEL 2 : ENVISIONING A MASS TRANSIT SYSTEM THAT PROMOTES EQUITY, OPPORTUNITY AND ECONOMIC GROWTH**

Mass transit can be a powerful driver of economic development and increased equity. Who should transit serve? What is the business community's role in promoting a strong and equitable transit, commuter rail and paratransit system? What are the best roles of the federal, state and local governments in funding, governance and planning? This discussion will center on lessons learned from Chicago, Washington, D.C. and San Francisco.

**MODERATOR**

Tom Kotarac, Senior Vice President of Transportation & Infrastructure,  
*Civic Committee of the Commercial Club of Chicago*

**PANELISTS**

Erin Aleman, Executive Director, *Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning*

Sharon Carney, Chief of Staff, *Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development, Washington D.C.*

Bob Dean, Chief Strategy and Program Officer, *Center for Neighborhood Technology*

Georgia Gann Dohrmann, Assistant Director, *Metropolitan Transportation Commission, San Francisco*

12:15 p.m. - **BREAK**

12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

**LUNCHEON AND KEYNOTE ADDRESS****THE FUTURE OF PUBLIC TRANSIT: WHICH PROBLEM SHOULD WE BE TRYING TO SOLVE?**

Joshua Schank, Managing Principal, *InfraStrategies LLC*

1:30 p.m. - **ADJOURNMENT****FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA**

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