

May 14, 2018

Aaron Lawlor, District 18
Lake County Board Chairman
18 N. County St., 10th Floor
Waukegan, IL 60085

Re: Pace Board Re-Appointment

Dear Chairman Lawlor,

As we recently discussed, my appointment to complete the Pace Board vacancy left by Dick Welton will expire on June 30th. As you know, Dick was half way through his fourth term when he passed unexpectedly and you appointed me to complete his term.

It has truly been an honor to fulfill his term as I considered Dick Welton a friend and a gracious but strong leader who provided me encouragement and support over the years. I have always been an advocate for expanded and affordable transportation options in Lake County and am a proponent of paratransit services and recognize the need to improve both user and financial efficiencies in these areas.


I support the TMA Shuttle Bug Program and value this public-private partnership program which offers convenient shuttle service connections between participating businesses and Metra stations resulting in the following benefits; reduced employee commute costs, increased opportunity for employers to attract and retain quality employees, provides employers a more diverse workforce, decreases commuter stress, reduces traffic congestion and improves air quality.

The recent cuts in State funding for operating costs and the continued lack of a State capital assistance program were managed in 2017. The year end results for 2017 showed a positive budget variance. A fare increase of 25 cents went into effect January 8, 2018. We are striving to make the budget goals established by the Pace Board in their approval of the 2018 budget and financial plan. Additionally, during 2018 while we continue to lobby for restored and additional funding we will work to develop a 2019 budget plan that meets 2019 needs and establishes a plan to meet the challenges of the expiration of I-90 CMAQ funding in 2021.

My updated bio is included in this communication and I look forward to my re-appointment and the opportunity to complete a full term on the Pace Board representing Lake County. I thank you for your confidence in my abilities in this role and look forward to the support and guidance from you and the entire Lake County Board over the next four years.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Soto

Pace Board of Directors
Lake County


Encl: Bio