

DRAFT

Paratransit “Lead Agency” Working Group

Recommendation on Lead Agency Lake County Government as Executive Sponsor

Public Works, Planning and Transportation Committee
August 5, 2020



Lead Agency “Working Group” Member Acknowledgement

Linda Soto - Chair

Kathleen O’Connor – Vice Chair

Steve Carlson

Jessica Hector-Hsu – Advisory Member

Leon Rockingham, Jr.

Bethany Williams

Terry Wilke

Ann Maine - Alternate

Shane Schneider - Alternate

Deb Waszak - Alternate

Pace Bus

Libertyville Township

Lake County Board

Regional Transportation Authority (RTA)

City of North Chicago

Lake County Partners

Lake County Board

Lake County Board

Lake County Division of Transportation

City of North Chicago

Participating Agencies: Association for Individual Development, DuPage County Community Services, Kane County Division of Transportation (DOT), Lake County (LC) Community Development Dept., LC Health Dept., LC Planning, Building, and Development Dept., LC Workforce Development Dept., LC DOT, McHenry County DOT, Pace, Regional Transportation Authority, Transportation Management Association (TMA) of Lake-Cook.

Lead Agency “Working Group” Mission

Mission: *The goal of this working group is to reach consensus on the most appropriate lead agency to advance paratransit coordination and service improvements in Lake County, Illinois and aid in developing a transition plan.*

- Conducted seven (7) public meetings to consider alternatives
 - July 2019 – July 2020

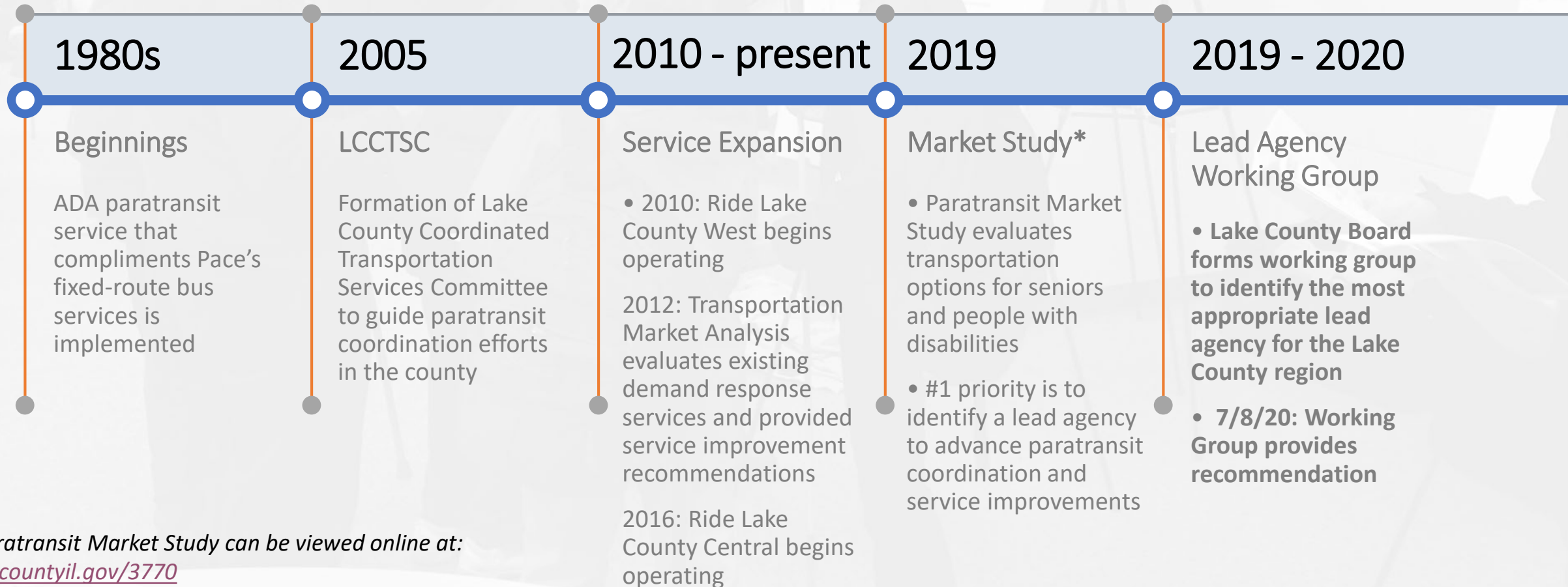
Meeting minutes from public meetings available online: <https://www.lakecountyl.gov/4191/Lead-Agency-Working-Group>

What is Paratransit?

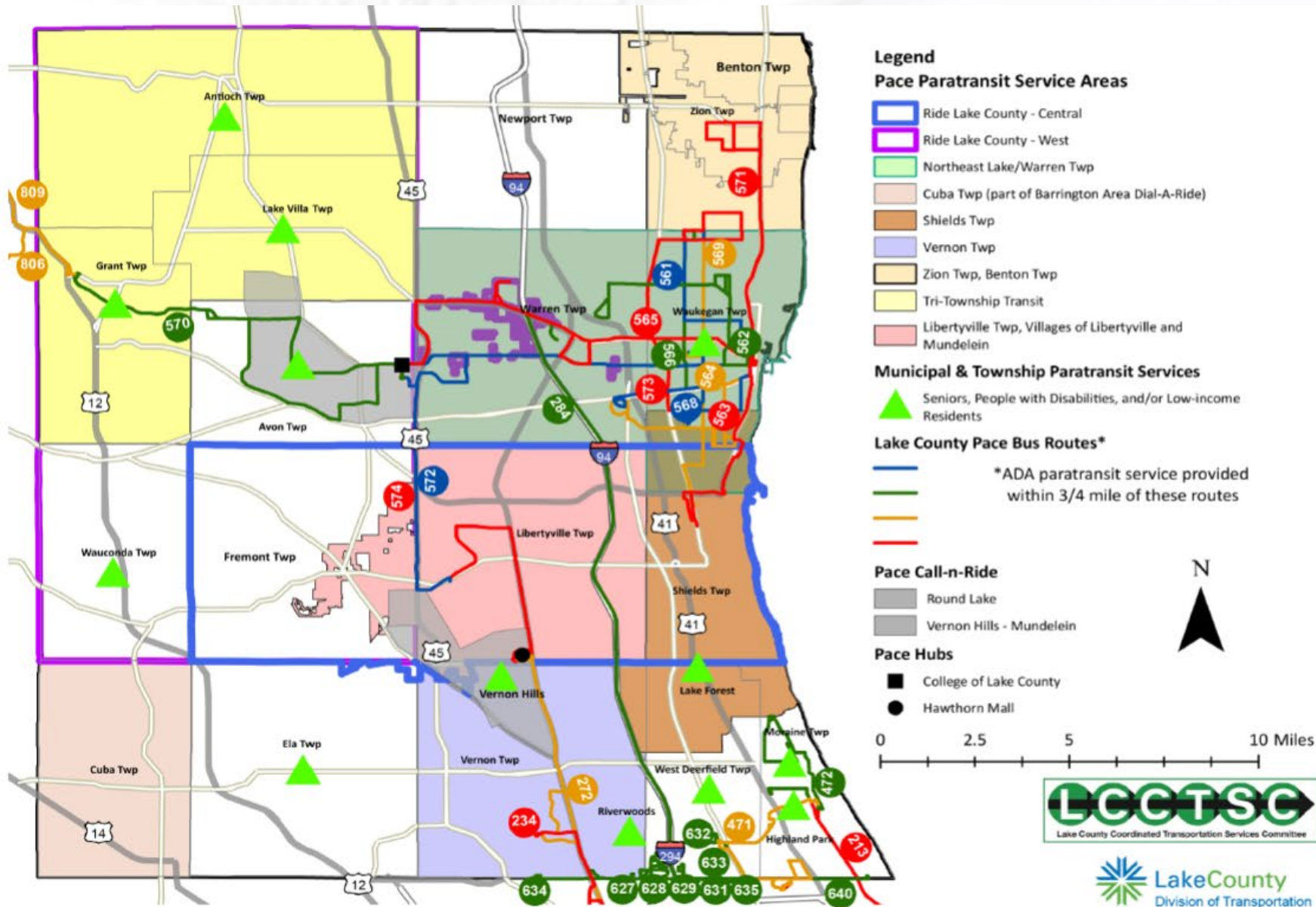
A shared and flexible on-demand service that responds to rider requests for travel within a defined service area geared toward individuals with mobility limitations that prevent them from accessing scheduled bus service, and/or live outside an area served by scheduled bus service.

Ride Lake County Eligibility: Service is open to seniors (age 60+), individuals with disabilities, and in some instances the general public.

History of Paratransit in Lake County

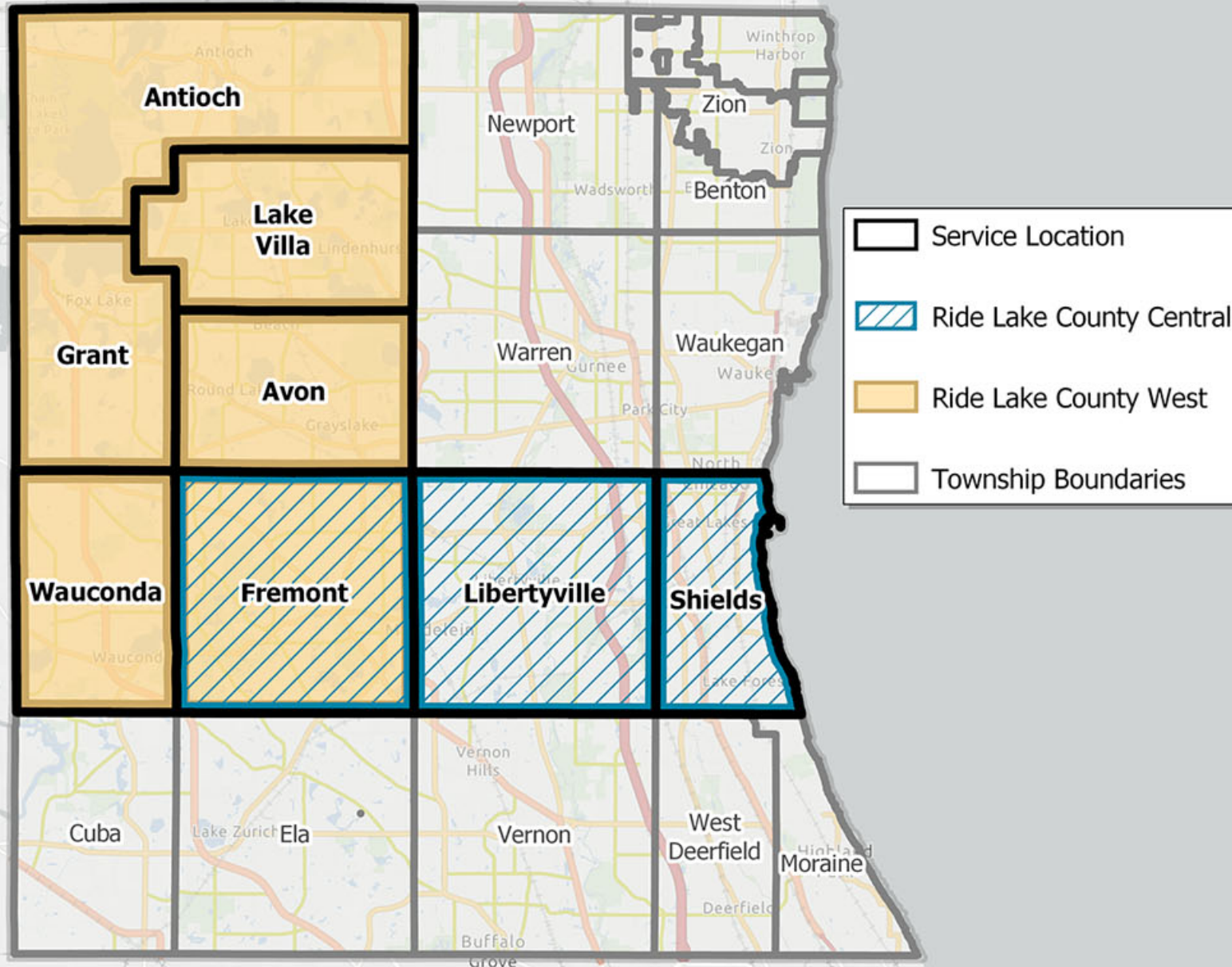


Existing Paratransit & Local Bus Services



- 41 non-fixed route options
 - 5 Pace Dial-A-Ride services
 - 2 coordinated Dial-A-Ride services
 - 14 township/municipality bus/van services
 - 13 township/municipality taxi subsidy programs
 - At least 7 human service agency programs
- At least \$3.6 million spent annually
- One-way cost per trip ranges from < \$10 to \$40
- Fares range from free or donation to \$3 one-way

Ride Lake County Existing Conditions



Ride Lake County

- Two separate services – Ride Lake County Central and Ride Lake County West
- Both use Pace curb-to-curb dial-a-ride
- Ride Lake County Central and Ride Lake County West have different administrative structures
- Pace and LCDOT perform admin tasks like mobility management, billing, and invoicing
- Lake County coordinates federal grants, generates ridership reports, ridership forecasting, and staffs Ride Lake County committees

Top Market Study Recommendations

Governance Changes

- ✓ Establish working group to identify the appropriate lead agency
- Dissolve LCCTSC
- Create Ride Lake County Committee

Mobility Management

- Centralized Trip Information/Planning
- Marketing Program
- Mobility Manager for Lake County Region

Note: The goal of these changes is to simultaneously improve both (1) the administration of the service; and (2) the experience for the users of service by providing efficient, reliable and affordable transportation options to our residents.

Peer Comparison

Administrative

- County as an executive sponsor
- Locals sponsor their local trips
- Pace performs mobility management

Financial

- Multiple layers of funding
- Standardized fare structure
- Pace's legacy funding rolled into larger service model
- Pace fully funds call center



Lead Agencies Considered

- Lake County Government
- Pace Bus
- Non-profit 501 (c) Organizations
(existing or new structure)

“Lead Agency” Work Group Recommendation

The Lead Agency Working Group recommends that Lake County Government serve as Executive Sponsor in a new countywide service model and on a new Ride Lake County Committee, to be made up of local funding sponsors and service providers that will be created and replace the Lake County Coordinated Transportation Services Committee (LCCTSC).

Proposed Roles and Responsibilities (Draft)



Executive Sponsor

- Assist with recruiting/vetting local sponsors
- Serve as a political change agent
- Manage Pace agreement for County sponsored services
- Establish Executive Committee to oversee Lake County government service(s)



Service Provider/Mobility Manager

- Manage sponsor agreements, billing and coordinate federal grants
- Conduct analysis to improve service and efficiencies
- Operate service and call center
- Mobility Manager (ridership reports & forecasting, resident inquiries, staff local committees)

Local Sponsors

- Register local riders
- Address resident inquiries
- Cost participation
- Pace service agreement

Ride Lake County Committee

- Advance paratransit coordination and service improvements
- Define Service Area/Destinations
- Set Sponsorship levels

Note: plan requires further discussion with Pace Bus and stakeholders.

Lake County's Executive Sponsor Role



Transition to Countywide Service: 2020-2022 (Tentative)

- Work with Pace and local partners to determine the administrative and funding model and governance best suited for the Ride Lake County program
- Coordinate recruitment of local sponsors via Letters of Intent and/or Inter-governmental Agreements
- Dissolve LCCTSC and form new Ride Lake County Committee made up of local funding sponsors and service providers
- Identify Lake County Government sponsored services and administrative structure (Ex. Funding regional trips, trips to County Courthouse and Health Department)

Lake County's Executive Sponsor Role



Beginning of New Service: 2023 (Tentative)

- Manage Pace agreement for Lake County Government sponsored services
- Support the Ride Lake County Program as a member and sponsor
- Assist with identifying and recruiting new local sponsors
- Serve as a liaison between Ride Lake County and regional agencies like the RTA and CMAP

Next Steps

- ✓ Pace Leadership **Discussion and Buy-In**
- ✓ County Board **Approval**
- ✓ Begin transition to **Countywide Service**
 - Market new service to potential partners
 - Seek letters of intent
 - Formulate task force to create new administrative and funding models



Questions and Discussion

Thank you