

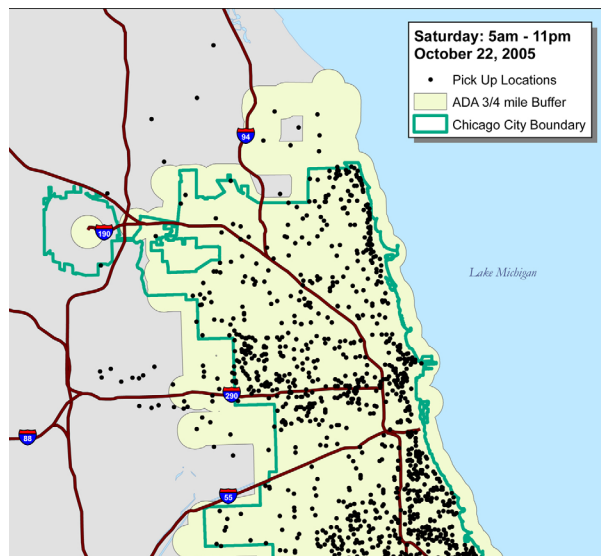
Chicago ADA Paratransit Planning

Pace, the suburban transit operator for the Chicago region, assumed responsibility for all ADA paratransit in the region as of July 2006. Previously the Chicago Transit Authority provided ADA paratransit in Chicago and adjacent suburbs, while Pace provided service in the suburbs. As part of the transition, Nelson\Nygaard has conducted two projects for the regional oversight body, the Regional Transportation Authority.

In 2006, we prepared an ADA Paratransit Plan that examined options for how Pace would operate the combined services and what funding would be required. Nelson\Nygaard: (1) documented how services were delivered and managed; (2) assessed changes in policies, practices, and service design that might generate cost efficiencies; (3) forecasted demand and costs through 2008; (4) identified alternative funding sources and gaps in funding based on the forecast costs; and (5) assessed the potential of coordination with human service agency transportation programs as a means to further create efficiencies.

In 2008, we were engaged for a follow-on project by RTA. The State legislation that made Pace the regional provider of ADA paratransit services required that the Regional Transportation Authority determine the cost of providing ADA paratransit services that correspond precisely to the requirements of the law, that is services that meet but do not exceed the requirements in any way. Nelson\Nygaard determined how the regulatory requirements apply to Pace by examining the regulations, compliance reviews conducted by the Federal Transit Administration, and court cases. We determined the cost impact of exactly applying the service area and hours requirements of ADA, raising fares to the maximum allowed, applying trip-by-trip eligibility, and other changes. We are in the process of creating a budgeting tool that RTA can use to estimate future year minimal cost requirements as mandated by the legislation.

CTA Saturday Paratransit Pick-ups and ADA Service Area



Project Duration: 2006-2007 and 2008-2010

Total Budget: \$168,000 and \$98,750

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