

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Office of Mayor Rory Hoskins
Village of Forest Park, Illinois

Mayor Hoskins Applauds Passage of Transit Funding and Reform Bill, Highlights Local Advocacy Efforts

FOREST PARK, IL – Mayor Rory Hoskins today commended Illinois lawmakers for passing a comprehensive compromise bill to fund and reform the state's public transit systems. The measure, approved during an overnight legislative session, will raise an additional \$1.5 billion for public transportation statewide, preventing significant cuts to CTA, Metra, and Pace service.

Since the spring, Mayor Hoskins and Village officials have been actively advocating for transit reform. Mayor Hoskins, along with the Village Commissioners, Village Administrator, and Police and Fire Chiefs, worked together to inform Illinois lawmakers about the strain that CTA operations have placed on Forest Park's emergency services and resources. The bill includes reimbursement provisions for Forest Park, Oak Park, River Forest, and Rosemont to recover costs tied to first responder services at CTA Blue or Green Line stations.

Co-sponsored by Representatives Kam Buckner and Eva-Dina Delgado, the legislation reflects months of collaboration between state and local leaders. It diverts sales tax revenue from motor fuel purchases to fund transit operations, allocates interest from the Road Fund, and introduces a 45-cent toll increase on northern Illinois tollways—the first in 13 years—to support new capital improvements.

Mayor Hoskins and Village of Forest Park Officials have been consistent advocates for equitable transit funding and safety reform, meeting with the Office of the Cook County President, CTA leadership, House Speaker Chris Welch, and members of Governor JB Pritzker's office to ensure Forest Park's needs are represented in state-level discussions.

“This legislation is a major step toward sustainable, reliable, and fair public transportation for our region,” said Mayor Hoskins. “Forest Park’s first responders face unique challenges because of the CTA’s presence in our community. We’ve made it clear that any long-term transit plan must include real support for the municipalities that carry this burden.”

A Crain’s Chicago Business report recently highlighted the rising number of emergency calls tied to CTA operations in Forest Park:

- 2015: 199 CTA-related emergency calls (164 at 711 Des Plaines)
- 2020: 412 total calls (336 at 711 Des Plaines)
- 2024: 525 total calls (465 at 711 Des Plaines), accounting for 12% of total call volume
- 2025 (as of May 2): 202 calls at 711 Des Plaines, on pace to exceed 600 this year

The Forest Park Fire Department handled 4,500 calls in 2024 and is projected to reach 4,600 calls in 2025, one of the highest totals among neighboring departments. Rising CTA-related calls continue to impact Village finances and personnel, drawing resources away from Forest Park residents. This pace is not sustainable,” said Mayor Hoskins. “The CTA or any future transit authority must take responsibility for EMS and safety services at its facilities. Forest Park cannot continue to bear this burden without adequate financial and staffing support.”

Media Contact:

Rachell Entler
Village Administrator
708-615-6201
rentler@forestpark.net

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