



Access to Transit Program

The RTA launched the Access to Transit program in 2012 to fund small-scale capital projects that improve access to the regional transit system for pedestrians and bicyclists. The Access to Transit program uses RTA funding to leverage local funds with federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ) funding to implement recommendations from planning studies. Funding can be used for Phase II engineering and construction of infrastructure projects however, Phase I engineering-only funding is also available for projects in communities that meet the criteria for additional assistance.

Eligible Applicants

The Access to Transit program is open to municipalities, counties, and the Service Boards (CTA, Metra, and Pace) that have completed, or are in the process of completing, a planning study that specifically recommends bicycle and/or pedestrian access improvements to transit. Applicants must have transit service in their community and be located within the RTA's six-county service area (Cook, DuPage, Lake, McHenry, Kane, and Will).

Eligible Projects

Eligible projects must be small-scale (under \$1M) and must be able to demonstrate the ability to increase ridership by improving access to existing transit services, thereby contributing to reduced vehicle emissions. The following list of improvements are eligible for funding:

- ADA accessibility improvements, crosswalks, pedestrian signal heads, sidewalk connections, wayfinding signage
- Bicycle infrastructure
- Bus stop infrastructure
- Intersection improvements
- Mobility hub elements
- Multi-use paths
- Sidewalks and sidewalk connections
- Rail station improvements
- Wayfinding signage
- Other innovative projects that support small-scale access to transit improvements

The next Call for Projects is anticipated for Fall 2025.

More information on the program: rtachicago.org/a2t or contact Michael Horsting at Michael.Horsting@rtachicago.org or Heather Mullins at Heather.Mullins@rtachicago.org

Questions for Breakout Groups

- What types of small access projects are most impactful for improving access to transit?
- What barriers exist in your community to advancing accessible infrastructure improvements and how could the RTA support your efforts?

