



# Transit-Friendly Communities Guide

In Spring of 2024, the RTA initiated the development of a guide to support, encourage, and educate decision-makers about practical ways to make their communities more transit-friendly and ensure that all riders can travel safely and efficiently.

The Guide was first envisioned in *Transit is the Answer*, the RTA's strategic plan, and updates the 2012 *Setting the Stage for Transit Guidebook*. The Transit-Friendly Communities Guide addresses current topics such as changing commuter trends, micromobility, affordable housing, and eTOD.

## Process

The process is being guided by a steering committee which includes representatives from municipal and county government, CTA, Metra, Pace, nonprofit and advocacy organizations, and developers. The committee has provided feedback at every key phase of the project.

Additional input has come from focus groups conducted with individuals from transportation agencies, developers, municipal planners, and nonprofit and community-based organizations.

The draft guide is underway and will be published in early 2025.

## What's in the Guide

- Updates on existing transit services and changing transportation trends
- Best practices in access infrastructure (i.e. sidewalks, crosswalks, bike racks, wayfinding, lighting, shelters, accessibility elements, etc.)
- Discussion of the importance of the transit-land use connection and related market trends
- Highlighting the role of equity and engagement in decision-making
- Case studies of successful transit-friendly communities (6 local, 4 national)
- A toolkit of land use and transportation strategies
- Transit-friendly design concepts that illustrate best practices for different community types
- An implementation framework with policies, programs, and techniques for decision-makers and developers

