



Comparison of Regional Transit Authorities (RTAs)



August 18, 2008



Comparison of RTAs

- 13 RTAs serving metro areas similar in size to Southeastern Wisconsin
- Northeastern Illinois RTA



Governance

- Board size
 - Ranges from 7 to 16
 - Median is 10
 - Average is 11
- Elected or Appointed
 - 12 of 14 have appointed boards
 - 1 has elected board
 - 1 board has members serving by virtue of their office (City Mayors and Managers and County Executive and Manager)



Governance (continued)

- Non-voting members
 - 2 of 14 RTAs
 - State DOT (2)
 - Outside local units of government (1)
- RTA appointing authority
 - Shared authority (9 of 12 RTAs)
 - Sole authority (3 of 12 RTAs)
 - Governor (1)
 - County Executive (1)
 - City/County Mayor(1)



Governance (continued)

- RTA appointing authorities
 - Municipal (10)
 - County (10)
 - Governor (2)
 - State Legislature (1)
 - State DOT (1)
 - Metropolitan Planning Organization (1)
 - Other RTA members (1)



Functions

- 12 of 14 serve as transit funding and operating agency
 - 1 is funding agency only
 - Northeastern Illinois RTA
 - Its transit operators are regional—Metra, Pace, CTA
 - 1 is operating agency only
 - Hampton Roads Transit
 - Local governments provide funding



Functions (continued)

- Transit Operations
 - 12 of 14 provide all the transit service within their service area
 - Exception—2 of these 12 have communities which have opted out of RTA
 - 1 (Austin) contracts for rural transit service in the outlying portions of the RTA area with counties which provide rural transit service
 - 1 (Northeastern Illinois) is a funding agency only (Metra, CTA, and Pace Transit operators)
 - Several provide transit service between their RTA area and communities/counties outside the RTA area under contract with (and subsidized by) the outside communities/counties



Funding Source

- Source of Dedicated funding (13 RTAs)
 - Sales tax – 10
 - Payroll tax – 3
- 7 Multi-county RTAs
 - 2 have different levels of taxes by counties
 - 5 include portions of counties, and 2 include entire counties



Summary

- Governance
 - Most common is appointed board with 10 members and shared appointment authority
- Functions
 - Most common is RTA serving as transit funding and operation agency
- Funding
 - Most common is sales tax dedicated funding
 - Most multi-county RTAs have differential tax levels or include parts of counties