

Metra/Pace “Did You Know” Fact Sheet



- Employees on Naperville’s trains, from conductors to ticket managers, are BNSF employees. While Metra owns the engines and train cars, all tracks and other equipment are owned by BNSF.
- The BNSF line is the busiest of the Metra system, providing 20% of all passenger trips in 2015.
- According to a 2014 survey, commuter access to the station is as follows:
 - 51% of riders drive themselves to the 5th Avenue station.
 - 21% carpool or are dropped off via auto.
 - 15% use public transit.
 - 12% walk or bike to the station.
 - 1% use other methods.

System-wide, 52% of riders drive to their Metra station.

- System wide, Metra ridership decreased 2.2% in 2017 from 2016, while the BNSF line ridership decreased 0.6%.
- Metra sees an increase in commuters riding 2-3 days per week, rather than 5 days per week. Monthly pass sales dropped 5.3% in 2017, while ten-ride tickets increased 6.5%.
- Addition or removal of trains on a Metra line requires a system-wide study to document compliance with the Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.
- Most trains in the Metra system are 10-cars long; only 1 track at Union Station can support an 11-car train.
- When not in use, Metra stores trains and cars in yards downtown and in Aurora. Presently, these yards are at capacity.

- Metra is investing \$350,000,000 in Positive Train Control (PTC). This federally-mandated system will result in another level of safety for train operation. Once installed, it is expected to add \$20,000,000 per year in operating costs, approximately \$0.25 per ticket sold.
- Metra expects to be implementing PTC until 2020.
- Due to the implementation of PTC, Metra has published a new schedule for the BNSF line. This proposed schedule includes changing an AM inbound local train to an express train from the Naperville station.
- Weekday station boarding at Naperville, and total BNSF line ridership, has remained steady for the past 10 years:

Weekday Station Boardings Over Time			
	Fall 2006	Spring 2014	Fall 2016
Aurora	2,180	2,107	1,936
Route 59	5,001	5,793	5,874
Naperville	3,734	4,112	4,002
Total BNSF Line	55,439	54,686	54,751

- There is no wait for quarterly permits at the Route 59 station, since 2010. Quarterly permits are available.
- There are 1,840 people on the downtown station wait lists. Of these, 333 already have a permit but have applied for a different location.
- The City completes monthly counts of available commuter parking at the Naperville station. Average usage of daily fee spaces is 99%, and permit spaces is 88%.
- Pace operates 20 bus routes which serve the Naperville station. Seventeen of these 20 routes come from south of 5th Avenue.
- In 2012, the City completed the *Naperville Metra Station Bus Depot and Commuter Access Feasibility Study*. This study investigated various local options for a bus depot. Federal funding was applied, and denied, for this project.