

# Lake County survey seeks clearer picture of Pace bus use



By **Amy Alderman** TribLocal reporter  
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Lake County officials are asking residents and employees to help them draw a clear picture of how Pace bus routes could be improved.

A **survey** posted on the county’s website Feb. 21 asks residents how often they use public transportation and if they knew what public transportation options are available in the region, where some bus routes are more than 25 years old, said Paula Trigg, director of planning and programming for the Lake County Department of Transportation.

“We think the county has changed a lot since the bus routes were developed in regard to households and employee centers,” Trigg said. “The whole goal is to make sure we have the best possible transit that we could.”

The information gathered in the survey, which is one small part of a \$437,000 study on the area’s bus routes, will be included in a market analysis on the area’s socio-economic status, traffic patterns and population. The study is funded by a \$350,000 grant from Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning’s Unified Work Program and \$87,000 in county dollars. The grant is paid through federal planning funds that are administered by the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, Trigg said.

All of the information gathered by the county and its Chicago-based consultants at Cambridge Systematics Inc. will be given to Pace to look at restructuring bus routes in the area, said Pace Spokesman Patrick Wilmot.

“We have been pretty aggressive in last eight years in restructuring services in the region. That means realigning bus routes to meet the levels of demand, designing ways operate to improve efficiency,” Wilmot said.

The deadline to complete the survey is March 16. Officials do not have a timeline on when the survey results would be made available

to the public or when routes would be restructured.

“We haven’t started the formal planning process yet,” Wilmot said, adding Pace officials would schedule public forums if any changes are made to bus routes.

For more information, go to [lakecountyil.gov/Transportation](https://lakecountyil.gov/Transportation)