# NITA

## NORTHERN ILLINOIS TRANSIT AUTHORITY

# Meeting of the NITA Board Committee on Safety

**November 6, 2026**

**Welcome! Meeting Starts at 9am**

**Meeting Agenda**
nita.Illinois.gov/about-us/board-meetings

NITA
NORTHERN ILLINOIS TRANSIT AUTHORITY

# 1. Call to Order



NITA

# 2. Roll Call




NITA

# 3. Selection of Committee Chair




NITA

# 4. Overview of Public Safety Initiatives in the NITA Act

NITA



# Public safety initiatives in the NITA Act

- To address public safety incidents on transit, the NITA Act creates:
  - Coordinated Safety Response Council (led by NITA)
  - NITA Law Enforcement Task Force (led by Cook County Sheriff)
- Additional legislative requirements:
  - Chief Transit Safety Officer, Office of Transit Safety and Experience
  - Formation of Safety Subcommittee
  - Safety incident reporting app by November 28, 2026
  - Transit ambassadors by July 1, 2027
- Agency progress:
  - $60 million in new safety funding approved in May budget amendment
  - $54.1 million included in 2027 budget for public safety beyond funding already included in Service Board plans

# Broad continuum of services, strategies, supports

**Law Enforcement**

- Incident response
- Jurisdictional coordination
- Consistent policies
- Technology
- Training
- Communication

**Health & Human Services**

- Prevention
- Outreach
- Services
- Crisis response
- Training
- Continuity of care

**Shared Regional System**

- Coordinated agency roles
- Presence of new Transit Ambassadors
- Protocols involving successful and compassionate handoffs
- Use of coordinated safety technology
- Consistent metric measurement
- Continuous improvement

# NITA Act transit public safety initiatives

## Coordinated Safety Response Council

- Led by NITA, the Council will include police, social service providers, labor, and other transit stakeholders
- Work reviewed by Board Safety Committee
- Collaborates on long-term safety strategy for NITA, provides input on safety standards
- Ongoing council, no end date, no required meeting schedule

## NITA Law Enforcement Task Force

- Led by Cook County Sheriff, membership includes transit, state, county police officials. Additional police units can be included upon request.
- Responsible for coordination among law enforcement, preventing and responding to violent crime on transit
- December 1, 2026: Preliminary report on recommendations for law enforcement strategies to the CSRC
- Disbands by June 1, 2029

# Membership

## Coordinated Safety Response Council

- NITA Chief Transit Safety Officer
- Representatives from each Service Board
- Chairs of Rider and ADA Advisory Councils
- Cook County State's Attorney
- Cook County Sheriff
- NITA Law Enforcement Task Force Member
- Chicago Police Department
- Law enforcement agencies whose jurisdictions includes transit facilities
- Labor organizations (2)
- Social service organizations (3)
- Illinois Department of Human Services
- Chicago Department of Family and Support Services

## NITA Law Enforcement Task Force

- Cook County Sheriff (Chair)
- Chicago Police Department
- Metra Police
- Illinois State Police
- County Sheriffs in DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry, and Will Counties
- Additional law enforcement agencies upon request

# Deliverables

## Coordinated Safety Response Council

- March 2027: Develop report on using sworn law enforcement on public transit, other transit safety initiatives, independent of Task Force requirements
- June 2027: Report on using social service providers to assist riders who are unhoused or in need of social services
- No deadline: Long-term incident response and safety strategy, reevaluated every 3 years, completed in coordination with NITA Office of Transit Safety and Experience

## NITA Law Enforcement Task Force

- December 1, 2026: Preliminary report on recommendations for law enforcement strategies
- March 1, 2027: Final report on recommendations for law enforcement strategies due to Coordinated Safety Response Council

# NITA Act Safety Timeline
# 2026 – 2027

# EMS Reimbursements: NITA Act Requirements

- “If the Village of Forest Park, the Village of Oak Park, the Village of River Forest, or the Village of Rosemont incur costs for the provision of first responder services, including, but not limited to, police, fire, paramedic, emergency medical technician, or ambulance responses, at a Chicago Transit Authority Blue Line or Green Line station that is located within its corporate boundaries, then the Authority shall reimburse the applicable village for those costs.” (70 ILCS 3615/2.48)
- For 2026, starts accruing June 1. Future years cover January 1 to December 31
- NITA may enter into intergovernmental agreements to administer and reimburse the villages
- Key reimbursement process dates:
  - January 15, 2027 (annually): Villages may submit itemized billing statements to NITA for prior-year costs
  - February 6, 2027 (annually): Payments remitted to villages

# EMS & First Responder Reimbursements

- All 4 Villages have begun coordination on a standardized invoicing process/format
- NITA staff met with Village staff on 11/2 to begin introductions, set expectations, request data
- NITA Legal has begun drafting IGA – targeting December 10 Board for approval
- Next steps:
  - Continue refining draft IGA, with support from municipal data
  - Meet with municipal legal teams to align on policy framework and IGA provisions
  - Finalize draft and share with NITA Board ahead of December meeting

# Public Safety Efforts Underway

- New initiatives launched since June with NITA Act funds
  - More CPD, Sheriff's Office, Metra Police presence
  - Enhanced health and human services pilots
  - Rider surveys and engagement
- Law Enforcement Taskforce has been meeting since June
- Health and Human Services coordination in advance of formation of the Coordinated Safety Response Council
- Formation of Safety Committee
- Recruitment of Chief Transit Safety Officer position



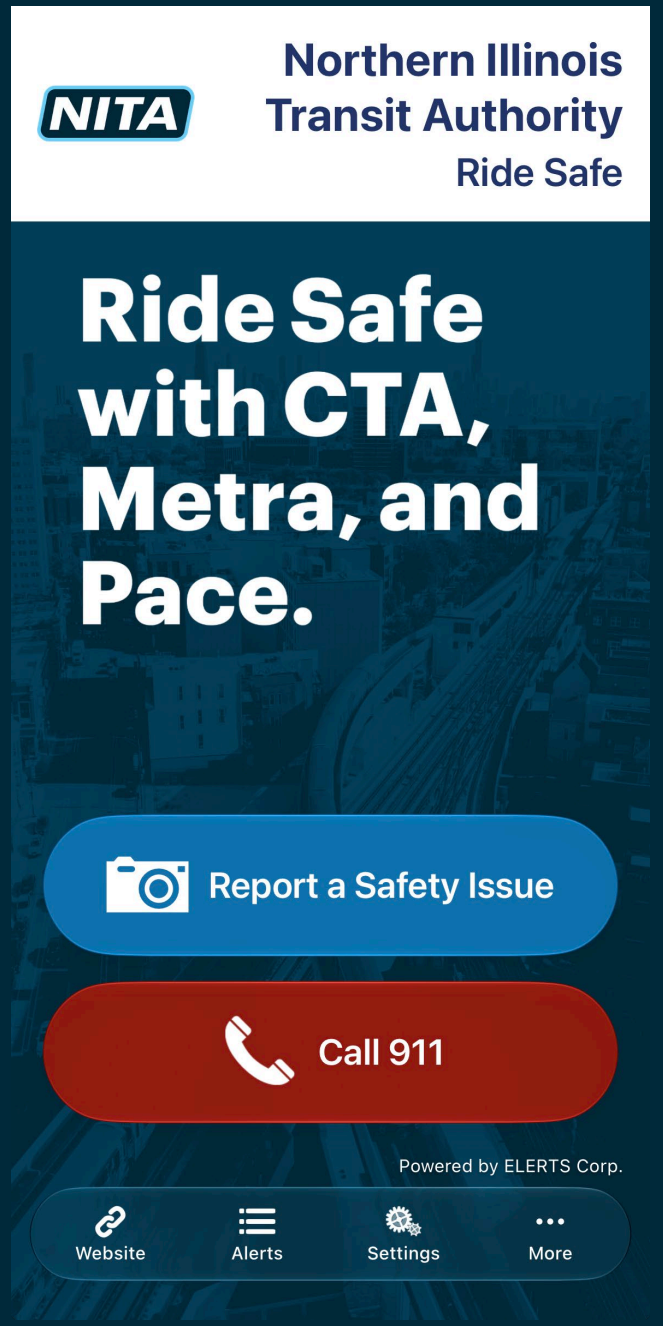
# 5. Executive Session



NITA

# 6. Update on the NITA Ride Safe incident reporting app pilot

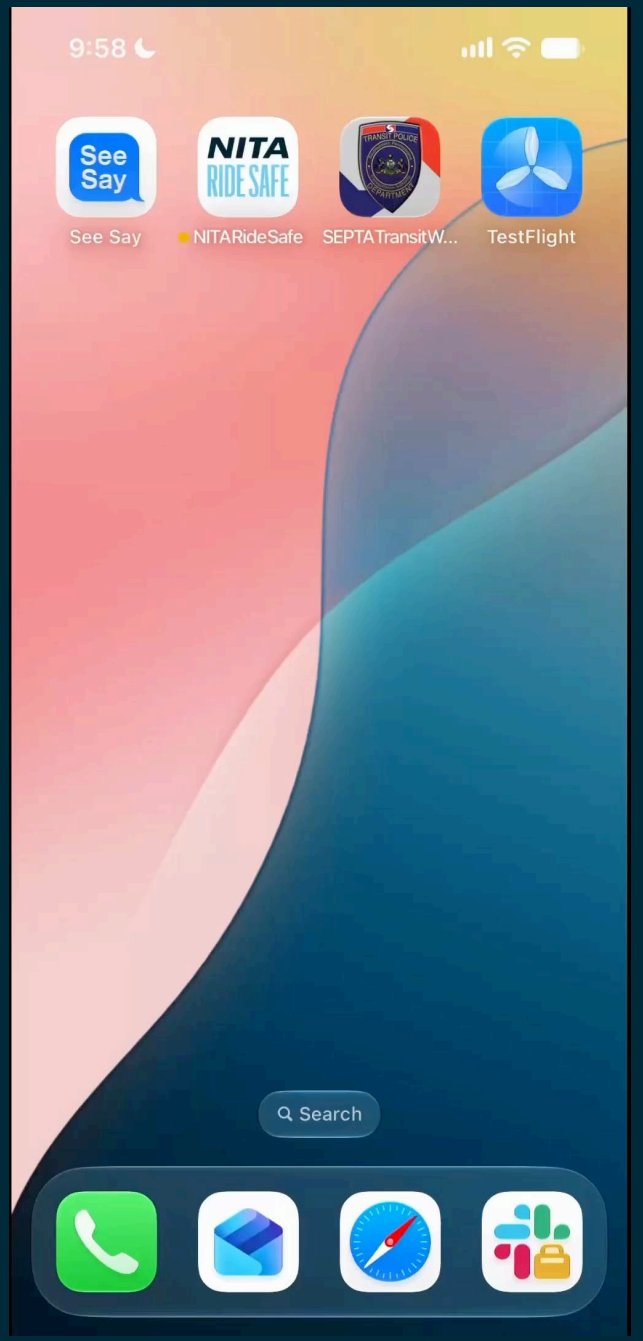
NITA



# NITA Ride Safe incident reporting app

- *NITA Ride Safe* is the statutorily mandated regional, real-time safety-reporting capability that will be available across CTA, Metra, and Pace by November 28, 2026
- The *NITA Ride Safe* mobile app expands and rebrands Metra's COPS app, leveraging an existing contract with ELERTS, a vendor used for incident reporting apps at several major transit agencies across the country
- A cross-agency Steering Committee with representatives from CTA, Metra, Pace, NITA, law enforcement, and social services collaborated on the redesign and pilot scope; will continue to support decision-making in the near-term and then handover to the Coordinated Safety Council
- Riders can discreetly report safety concerns via the mobile app or a direct text phone number, creating a safety-focused channel to rapidly address time-sensitive safety concerns while existing customer service channels remain separate and active
- Metra's Multimedia Analytic Center (MAC) has trained staff to review reports, follow up with riders if they need more details, and send it to the right emergency or non-emergency responders

# NITA Ride Safe app




NITA

# 7. Public Comment




NITA

# 8. New Business

NITA



# Adjournment

**The next meeting of the NITA Board of Directors is scheduled for Thursday, November 12.**

# Stay connected

nita.illinois.gov

On Track : A blog from NITA – nita.illinois.gov/blog

facebook.com/NITAChicago

instagram.com/nita_chicago

linkedin.com/northern-illinois-transit-authority

threads.net/nita_chicago

tiktok.com/nita_chicago

x.com/nita_Chicago

@nitachicago.bsky.social

/@NITAChicagoland

/@NITABoardMeetings

Board of Directors meetings

# NITA

## NORTHERN ILLINOIS TRANSIT AUTHORITY