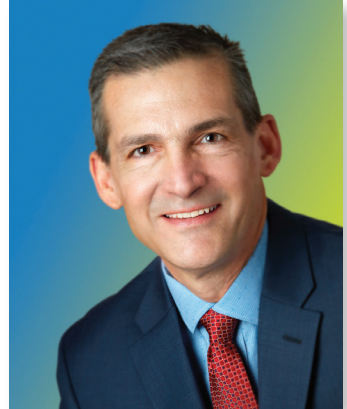




Transit Drives Connections in Valparaiso

*The Honorable Jon Costas
Mayor, City of Valparaiso*

When we introduced our city's V-Line intracity bus service in 2007, we became one of the smallest cities in the United States to operate its own independent public transit system. At a population just over 33,000, there were plenty of skeptics of the service. Yet, we were optimistic and committed to finding a way to connect our community through transit. We wanted a way for people to get to work, visit our businesses, play in our parks, and commute to and from local Valparaiso University. I'm pleased to say that 11 years later, our ridership for 2018 was 108,732. I'm delighted each time I see a V-Line bus in our community.



Similarly, our ChicaGo Dash service was another progressive move in transit for Valparaiso. Our proximity to Chicago means that many of our residents work or do business in the city. To serve these commuters, in 2008 we launched an express bus service to Chicago. We wanted the service to be convenient and comfortable, so we made sure the buses were roomy, comfortable, and offered free on-board Wi-Fi. Like the V-Line, ridership quickly increased, and we added departures and stops along the way.

Today, we're providing more than 64,000 rides annually on ChicaGo Dash. In fact, we're preparing to add another route, as well as an additional service to the nearby train station, further expanding options for riders.

In Valparaiso, transit means more than seats on a bus. To us, transit means community engagement. Riders represent visits to our businesses, our parks, and our workplaces. They represent good jobs in Chicago. Those seats represent freedom for students, the disabled, and elderly passengers who don't drive. We're proud to be in the drivers' seats when it comes to transit!



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