Citizen Input and Local Transit Planning and Management: The role of Weblogs

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Blogging and Citizen Input

- 27.2 million blogs and growing
- Interactivity
- Supplants local media
- Offer insights from users
- Can also spread misconceptions

CTA Tattler

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what this is about * add your crazy commuting tales here * archives of crazy commuting tales * sign up for cta wireless alerts

CTA Tattler

Seen and heard on the Chicago Transit Authority

November 03, 2006

Addison, Montrose to close for a year on the Brown Line

Next up for total rehab and expansion on the Brown Line are the Addison and Montrose stations. Except this time the stations will be closed for a full year, instead of the six months for Kedzie and Rockwell.

Delays on weekend Red Line: Oh and by the way, there will be delays this weekend on the Red Line. Shades of David Byrne: Same as it ever was. Stop making sense? The CTA doesn't usually.

Nov. 1 = Heat (in most places): I love Nov. 1 because it marks the first day of operation for heat lamps on train platforms. At least on most platforms.

Published under CTA in the news | ??? | Comments (3) | TrackBack (0)

November 02, 2006

No sweating in this Hawaii sweatshirt

A 20-something guy on the Red Line proudly wears a heavy, gray, hooded sweatshirt with "HAWAII" printed across the front.

Huh? I mean, who knew such a heavy garment was even in the catalog for the fine University of Hawaii from the Aloha State?

I guess they ship those out of the island state for us poor schmoes stuck in the Midwest for the winter.

CTA News from Yahoo!

Rider sues CTA over expired fare cards (Chicago Sun-Times)
A CTA rider filed a class-action lawsuit this week in...

Rider Files Suit After CTA Denies Expired Card (NBC 5 Chicago)
CHICAGO -- A Chicago Transit Authority commuter is filing a...

Rider Sues CTA Over Money On Expired Cards (CBS 2 Chicago)
A rider has filed a class-action lawsuit against the CTA,...

The Drawing Board (Daily Northwestern)
What news scares you the most this Halloween? The

CTA Photo Pool on Flickr

_MG_0342_xtnB

winchesta has added a photo to the pool:

Lil red riding hood.

_MG_0345_xtnB

winchesta has added a photo to the pool:

Find: Find Next Find Previous Highlight all Match case

CTA Tattler

Seen and heard on the Chicago Transit Authority

Main | Add your crazy commuting stories here »

What this is about

The Chicago Transit Authority is a behemoth of elevated trains, subways and myriad bus routes, touching every part of Chicago and many suburbs.

I ride the CTA's Red Line every day to work, my daughter rides it to school, and my wife uses it to run errands and for her work. The Red Line runs more than 20 miles north and south -- through rich neighborhoods such as Lincoln Park, poorer ones on the South Side, and right past Chicago's two baseball stadiums: Wrigley Field and U.S. Cellular Field.

En route, we see the strangest things and hear some very interesting conversations -- many of them one-sides, thanks to the proliferation of cell phones.

This blog will document things seen and heard on the CTA.

Comments

CTA Tattler

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CATEGORIES

- Altered states
- Answers from the CTA Insider
- Best bags
- Best cellers
- Best reader Tattler Tales
- Best Tattler Tales of 2005
- Breaches of etiquette
- Brown Line rehab
- CTA gift ideas
- CTA in the news
- CTA wireless alerts
- El-level view
- Higher power
- Homeless and beggars
- Inappropriate dress
- Just a little odd
- Mooching
- Overheard

CTA Tattler

Seen and heard on the Chicago Transit Authority

« CTA Alerts double as news provider | Main | Eastern-European Evil Eyebrow »

The Lying Celler

A guy boards the Red Line South at Granville at 7:30 am. He's half-dressed with a work shirt totally unbuttoned, a white T-shirt underneath. He's carrying a belt, his hair is mussed up, with sleepies still dabbing the corners of his eyes.

He makes a call to work: "Oh, Hi, this is Bill. We've just been delayed fifteen minutes on the train, so I'm going to be late, okay? Thanks...cheers!"

The trains were not late -- he was. Obviously he had just fallen out of bed just minutes ago.

Comments

I always blame the CTA when I'm running late.

Posted by: Cheryl | July 10, 2006 at 11:36 AM

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Comments

Uh, what was the big deal exactly?

Posted by: Josh | March 28, 2006 at 06:54 AM

Soliciting on CTA trains is prohibited. Violators will be arrested. (That's the big deal. :)

Posted by: Scott | March 28, 2006 at 07:42 AM

He ALWAYS gets off at Belmont or Fullerton. I once watched him take $100 from a lady and she started crying. I don't feel sorry for people who play his game...they are just asking to be robbed. But his "system" is quite easy so he doesn't need a pickpocket, although he does have a "partner" that he works with to fool people.

Posted by: LadyDay | March 28, 2006 at 08:09 AM

Josh, I trust the two comments after yours answers your question... it's illegal. Period.

Posted by: Kevin | March 28, 2006 at 08:23 AM

Good for you, Kevin!!

Posted by: Jenn L | March 28, 2006 at 10:03 AM

I find it amazing that people still fall for this even when there is a shill present. When I've seen them in action the shill is as horrible of an actor as the con.

CTA Tattler

Comments

i've said it before, and I've emailed this to CTA as well, but if they would make the smart cards smart enough to handle non-standard fares (i.e. reduced fare user or commuter runs), I bet they'd see a LOT more usage. I have a card, I use it if I'm riding off-peak or if I have out of town friends coming in (because I park at Midway those days to have my car available when they land), but I've now had it over a year and haven't yet had to refill the card from the original deposit. If the card was smart enough to take only the $1 fare for the 123 bus, then I'd happily whip out the card and ride the bus more often. As it is, if I don't have cash in my pocket (and I rarely do when I'm downtown), I'm guaranteed to be walking regardless of the weather.

Posted by: Jenn | June 12, 2005 at 08:57 PM

Another thing they need to do is market the transit option to employers. I have a card--I got it through work. I was already having work take the money out of my check for the 30 day pass--if you get one through work the 30 day pass costs $75 of pre-taxed income a month. It's a sweet deal if your company will sign on with it. When the smart cards came along, I was given the option of getting one or losing my transit benefit. I was of the impression that directive came from the CTA, but apparently not.

Posted by: Cheryl | June 13, 2005 at 09:21 AM

Ask Carole

Ask Carole - Mozilla Firefox
Ask Carole
Welcome! I created this blog to answer some of the questions people have been asking about the CTA's funding situation. We on the board have asked many of these same questions, and we want to help get the word out. So please feel free to send comments or questions to CTAboard@transitchicago.com, and check back regularly for answers and updates to our efforts to increase transit funding. – Carole
About Me
NAME:CAROLE BROWN LOCATION:CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, UNITED STATES
View my complete profile
Links
Main CTA website
Chicago-L.org
ChicagoBus.org
Google News
Recent posts
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2006
Proposed 2007 Budget
Last week CTA President Frank Kruesi proposed a 2007 CTA budget based on the Regional Transportation Authority's funding marks. The CTA board met today to begin our discussions about that proposal. This is the beginning of a dialogue with this board, the public, the Cook County Board, and many other stakeholders. I encourage anyone who is interested in CTA to read the budget and to ask questions. The board will hear public comment in at a hearing at CTA headquarters on November 8th at 6:00 pm. I also encourage people to submit comments in writing to our board office, via our email address, CTAboard@transitchicago.com, or here on the blog. There are always changes to the budget based on this dialogue, and I assure

CTA Tattler Wireless Alerts

Wireless alerts get real-time CTA info to the masses

Last night during the height of the rush hour, Cheryl wrote a comment on an unrelated post, alerting us to the train fire that shut the Brown and Purple Lines. She lamented that she didn't know how to share that info with us:

"We really need somewhere here to post alerts. Right now the Brown and Purple Lines are only running north of Belmont. There's a fire on the tracks near Sedgwick. I wanted to let people here know about this, but I don't really know where to put it."

Well Cheryl, your wish is my command. We've set up a wireless notification group. That's where you post these types of alerts.

Last month, after an unattended package **messed up rush hour** yet again, **my brother Dan** suggested we post CTA alerts to a wireless notification group he set up with **upoc.com** called **CTA Alerts**.

Dan noted in his comment: "The amazing thing about this thread is that there is so much detailed, custom information in it that could have been useful yesterday but wasn't shared until it was too late/ not useful anymore. It got me to thinking about how cool it would be if everyone here could have shared their info immediately -- from the platform or bus -- with other interested people. Delivering way better information than the garbled speakers and intransigent CTA employees."

UPOC Wireless Alert

message history

Nov 05 1:13AM
Fr: Wpwifi
Edit Red line is single track cermak/china to 47th. Beware!

Nov 05 1:10AM
Fr: Wpwifi
Red line is single track cermak to 43. Beware!

Nov 04 11:29AM
Fr: Madscientist1
No nb 145 146 or 147 on Michigan ave for 45 minutes and I don't know why.

Nov 03 10:25AM
Fr: CTA_HQ
Due to switching problems near Belmont station, NB Red, Brwn & Purp. Ln trains delayed; trains moving; allow extra time.

Nov 03 9:33AM
Fr: bobinchicago
SB Purple also delayed, switches under manual operation now, problem blamed on "inclement weather"

Nov 03 9:18AM
Fr: ed5773
Problems at clark junction sb red and brown delayed maybe 10 minutes

Nov 02 6:26PM
Fr: TerraIncognita
Purple delayed @ washington with jammed door . Backing up inner loop.

Nov 02 6:25PM
Fr: BluntedOut
3 #72 busess going west bound on right now busess on north ave & clark
=== LoUiE ===

Conclusions

- Interactivity is important
- Communication is cost-effective & can build alliances
- Avoid inauthentic trap of public relations
- Remember that bloggers/internet users represent a privileged class of riders—they don't speak for everyone