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MEMORANDUM

To: Planning Coordinating Committee

Date: May 6, 2009

From: Erin Aleman, Associate Planner

Re: Public Engagement for *GO TO 2040*

The main public involvement stage of the *GO TO 2040* plan will be kicked off in June. Some activities are already underway, and planning for others is in the final stages. This memo describes these activities.

“Invent the Future” activities involving interactive software. The primary public engagement tool that will be used in summer 2009 is interactive software that lets users experiment with different types of transportation investments and development patterns and view the outcomes of these decisions. This software will be used at public meetings, on the web, and also in kiosks across the region. This series of meetings is being called “Invent the Future” to indicate that the planning process has moved beyond the community conversations and visioning meetings that occurred earlier in the development of *GO TO 2040*.

Planning of public meetings for this purpose is underway. Fifteen have been scheduled, in the following locations, and the scheduling of others is ongoing. Meetings will generally be scheduled in coordination with partner organizations to help drive interest and attendance. Scheduled meetings (all at 6:00, 6:30, or 7:00 p.m.) include:

- Thursday, June 4th: Preview with Burnham and Landmarks Illinois in Oak Park
- Tuesday, June 9th: College of Lake County
- Thursday, June 18th: Carol Stream Public Library
- Tuesday, June 23rd: DuPage County Government Center Auditorium
- Tuesday, June 23rd: Washington Township Ctr., Beecher
- Wednesday, June 24th: City of Naperville
- Thursday, June 25th: Crystal Lake Council Chambers
- Tuesday, June 30th: Illinois Humanities Council - Preview
- Wednesday, July 15th: Waubensee Community College
- Thursday, July 16th: Riverside Township Hall
- Tuesday, July 21st: Gail Borden Public Library District

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- Thursday , July 23rd: SSMMA
- Wednesday, July 29th: Active Transportation Alliance - Chicago
- Wednesday, August 5th: Harvard Library
- Tuesday, August 11th: Joliet Historic Museum

The web version is in its final stages of development and will be launched in June. Also on the web, visitors will have access to detailed information about -- and the chance to comment on -- the alternative scenarios developed by CMAP.

A shorter, introductory version will be installed on a number of kiosks that will be placed in high-traffic places around the region beginning in June. One kiosk will be installed in Millennium Park near the temporary Burnham pavilions for the entire summer and another will be in the Sears Tower lobby, which combined get more than 2 million visitors per year. Other kiosks will be shared across two dozen public locations. The kiosk software will also be installed on laptops for CMAP staff to have available at festivals or other public events over the summer.

Design workshops. A series of design workshops is underway to “translate” how regional scenarios might affect local communities. Illustrations are being created for fifteen communities across the region to show how alternative scenarios would affect particular sites within these communities. Participating communities include Arlington Heights, Barrington, Blue Island, Chicago (the Rogers Park and UIC / Greektown neighborhoods), Elgin, Fox River Grove, Grayslake, Lockport Township (led by Will County), Streamwood, Sugar Grove, Tinley Park, Wheeling, Winfield, and Yorkville. Each community has been paired with an architecture or design firm who is responsible for creating the illustrations. Most areas are expected to have completed illustrations by early June.

Bold Ideas contests. The Bold Ideas Contest Program is targeted to youth in northeastern Illinois, but specifically high school students. Bold Ideas is a contest that gets students thinking about what they want for their community in the year 2040, and expressing their ideas through a customized classroom or school-wide program. This program can be integrated into just about any curriculum – science, art, social studies, English, history and connects what students are learning in school to the world around them. The “boldest ideas” about 2040 are presented, judged and awarded prizes. CMAP is working with six schools this year, listed below, and staff will provide an update on the recent contests.

- Bloom Trail High School (May 7)
- Waukegan High School (May 8)
- Highland Park High School (May 8)
- Westmont High School (May 19)
- Bolingbrook High School (May 26)
- UNO Veterans Memorial High School (May 29)

ACTION REQUESTED: Information and discussion.

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