

Vision development description

DRAFT – May 7, 2008

The purpose of this document is to present the statements included in the Regional Vision for the *GO TO 2040* plan and demonstrate how these statements were developed. This document explains the vision development process and how the input received affected the final vision statements that are recommended for endorsement.

Also, this document presents the vision statements as of April 2008, which are organized into several major themes. For each set of statements, there is an explanation of how these statements have been modified since the release of draft vision statements in October 2007, and an explanation of why these changes have been made.

Other background information is also included as attachments which can be downloaded separately from: www.goto2040.org/vision. (It has been separated from this document due to its size.) These attachments include the following sections:

1. Initial goals from Common Ground and 2030 Regional Transportation Plan, and brief descriptions of how these were developed
2. Identification of the goals that were most relevant for discussion at each CMAP committee
3. Development by committees of the “main ideas” to be included in the vision, based on discussion of the initial goals
4. Description of September 12, 2007 visioning event and its results
5. Draft vision statements released for public comment in October 2007
6. Comments received on vision statements by committees, external stakeholder meetings, and stakeholder survey
7. Results of community conversation meetings held through community-based organizations and members of the Citizens Advisory Committee
8. Results of general public survey on vision themes

Vision development process

The regional vision has been developed over the course of approximately one year. The vision has built on goal-setting work done in the recent past by CMAP’s predecessor agencies (NIPC and CATS), and has particularly relied on the results of the Common Ground process. This process, conducted by NIPC between 2000 and 2005, involved thousands of members of the public from around the region, and served as the basis of the NIPC Framework Plan. (See part 1 of the attachment for more details on these processes.)

In early 2007, when CMAP began its work on the *GO TO 2040* plan, a deliberate decision was made not to redo or repeat Common Ground. Instead, CMAP determined that the goals identified through Common Ground would be used as the basis for the *GO TO 2040* regional vision. It was recognized that these goals would need to be updated, revised, and supplemented to create a consensus regional vision to reflect CMAP’s mission, and that was the purpose of the vision development process that is described below.

In March 2007, staff began the first step in vision preparation, which was the discussion with CMAP committees of the Common Ground goals, as well as the goals identified in the 2030 Regional Transportation Plan. Each committee was asked to review each goal and rate it as to whether it was *central* to the committee’s work, *relevant* to the committee’s work, or largely outside the committee’s

scope. This was done through a series of discussions in March and April 2007 with each working committee. (See part 2 of the attachment for more details on this process.)

Through summer 2007, each committee then identified and prioritized the main ideas within each goal that needed to be reflected in the regional vision. The purpose of this exercise was to determine the key themes from the initial goals that would form the structure of the regional vision. The committees held these discussions at a series of meetings, with opportunities for review of the results of past meetings. By August 2007, a shared list of key themes identified by each committee was prepared and discussed. (See part 3 of the attachment for more details on this process.)

In September 2007, a visioning event was held to discuss the identified key themes and begin to add detail to each theme. This event was attended by approximately 150 regional leaders and key CMAP stakeholders. At the event, the themes identified by the working committees were discussed and modified, and attendees provided real-time feedback using keypad polling technology on the revised vision statements. The visioning event resulted in the development of approximately three or four statements to support each vision theme. (See part 4 of the attachment for more details on this process.)

After the visioning event, staff modified the statements developed at the event to clarify language and to remove redundant statements. In addition, some statements that were not rated well at the visioning event were modified more heavily to incorporate ideas from the discussions that the working committees had over the summer. In October 2007, these draft vision statements were presented to the Planning Coordinating Committee and were released for public comment. (See part 5 of the attachment to view these draft vision statements as released.)

Between October 2007 and February 2008, the draft vision statements were reviewed by the working committees, the Citizens Advisory Committee, other CMAP task forces, and several external stakeholder groups. In addition, an online and paper survey geared toward stakeholders was released, and comments were also received through this mechanism. (See part 6 of the attachment for more details on the results of these meetings and the survey.)

Between February and April 2008, CMAP began outreach to the general public to receive input on the direction of the vision statements. Meetings were held in conjunction with several community-based organizations and also with members of the Citizens Advisory Committee, and an online and paper survey geared toward the general public was made available in March. (See parts 7 and 8 of the attachment for more details on the results of these meetings and the survey.)

Quality of life

Recommended statements:

Regional planning and development will be aimed at achieving the highest possible **quality of life** and well-being for all of its residents. The region will consist of attractive, interdependent communities with distinct identities. These identities will be built on their histories, natural and physical assets, architecture, and aesthetic preferences reflecting the unique values of their residents and businesses. Northeastern Illinois will remain a global destination for tourism and culture because of its internationally-recognized architecture, arts institutions, entertainment options, and other cultural and natural amenities. Our communities will have access to an abundance of art forms, our residents will enjoy the opportunity to participate in various art forms, and our region will continue to sustain world-class artistic and cultural institutions. The region will have diverse housing, transportation, and recreation choices, and its residents will have equitable access to employment, education, health care, and other regional assets.

Initial versions:

- The region will consist of attractive, interdependent communities with distinct identities. These identities will be built on their histories, natural and physical assets, and aesthetic preferences reflecting the unique values of their residents and businesses.
- Northeastern Illinois will remain a global destination for tourism and culture because of its internationally-recognized architecture, arts institutions, entertainment options, and other cultural amenities.
- All parts of the region will have diverse housing, transportation, and recreation choices and will feature equitable access to employment, education and other regional assets.

Explanation:

An introductory sentence was added to contextualize the approach to quality of life and its relationship to regional planning. Bullet one, which consisted of two sentences, was modified slightly to highlight the importance of architectural style in community identity. For bullet two, the end of the phrase was modified to include natural amenities. Bullet three was slightly modified for clarity and simplicity and to avoid overly repeating concepts from the “equity” theme. It was broken into two clauses to improve readability. In addition, a bullet was added related to arts and culture.

These adjustments were suggested by the Land Use committee, Citizens Advisory Committee, and other stakeholders. The additional bullet on arts and culture was suggested by the Chicago Community Trust.

Sustainability

Recommended statements:

To address **sustainability**, we must meet the needs of the present without compromising the future. A high quality of life in the region will be possible only if the leaders of today and the future take significant actions to ensure the sustainability of the region's systems and activities. Between now and 2040, our leaders will weigh the environmental, economic, and social impacts of their decisions, both locally and globally, and will consider the needs of future generations.

Initial versions:

- A high quality of life in the region will be possible only if the leaders of today and the future consider the sustainability of the region's systems and activities.
- Between now and 2040, our leaders will weigh the environmental, economic, and social impacts of their decisions, both locally and globally, and will consider the needs of future generations.
- The region will actively mitigate the environmental effects of its activities -- including climate change -- and will be prepared to adapt to future environmental conditions.

Explanation:

An introductory sentence was added to introduce the concept of sustainability and briefly explain what it means. In bullet one, the main verb was changed from "consider" to "take significant actions to ensure" in order to strengthen the statement. The second bullet was not modified. The third bullet was moved to the "environmental health" section, where it was a more appropriate fit.

The adjustments above were suggested through the stakeholder survey. In addition, the concept of sustainability was important to many of the participants in the public meetings that were held in spring 2008, and the strengthening of the language of sustainability from recognition to action responds to this. The movement of the third bullet to the "environmental health" section was suggested by a number of respondents to the stakeholder survey.

Equity

Recommended statements:

The region will be strengthened by taking an active approach to **equity**. The benefits and burdens caused by the region's investments and policies will be fairly distributed to all parts of the region. In addition, these benefits and burdens will be shared between groups of people, regardless of age, gender, income, ethnicity, culture, or disability status. All residents will have the opportunity to access the region's economic, educational, and other assets. Also, the diversity of the region's many cultures will be celebrated as one of our strengths.

Initial versions:

- Equity will be pursued as a regional goal to create a high quality of life in all parts of our region. Regional decisions will strive to not create "winners" and "losers," but will improve the lives of all residents equitably.
- Policy and investment decisions will benefit all parts of our region, and all residents will have equitable access to the region's assets.
- Regardless of age, income, ethnicity, culture, or disability status, all residents will be healthy, educated, safe, mobile, and involved in their communities.
- Building on the many ethnicities and cultures that have strengthened our region's society, the diversity of northeastern Illinois will continue to be celebrated in 2040.

Explanation:

The language on equity was completely changed based on negative reactions through the stakeholder survey. The new version was created based on comments received from the Human Services committee and the discussion of equity contained in the Regional Snapshot report on sustainability. The Planning Coordinating Committee reviewed the new statements at its March 12, 2008 meeting and indicated that the new language appeared appropriate.

Innovation

Recommended statements:

Between now and 2040, the region will embrace **innovation** and use creative strategies to meet our challenges and opportunities. Our innovation will drive economic growth and allow us to address environmental, social, and infrastructure problems. The region will be on the forefront of developing new technologies, with innovative approaches to providing public services and increasing cooperation between public and private sectors.

Initial versions:

None.

Explanation:

The statements on innovation did not appear in the first version of the vision statements. The Economic and Community Development committee suggested its inclusion, and a number of survey respondents also made similar comments. The language in these vision statements borrows from the “Innovate Now!” partnership, as well as suggestions contained in the survey comments.

Environmental health

Recommended statements:

The region will be a world leader in implementing innovative measures to protect the **environment**, including air quality, biodiversity, natural and human communities, water quality and supply, and the overall ecological health and diversity of the region. The region's nationally-recognized system of open space – including forest preserves, conservation districts, and parks – will continue to shape regional identity and contribute to the health of our residents. Especially along sensitive waterways, open space will be preserved and expanded, creating green infrastructure networks that enhance people's connection with nature and serve as habitat corridors. Lake Michigan and the lakefront will be protected in a coordinated effort with other states, regions, and countries as an irreplaceable natural resource for health, recreation, tourism, and economic prosperity. The region will actively minimize and mitigate the environmental effects of its activities -- including climate change -- and will be prepared to adapt to future environmental conditions.

Initial versions:

- The region will be a world leader in implementing innovative measures to protect the environment, including air quality, biodiversity, natural and human communities, water quality and supply, and the overall ecological health of the region.
- The region's nationally-recognized system of forest preserves, conservation districts, and parks will continue to shape regional identity. Especially along sensitive waterways, open space will be preserved and expanded, creating green infrastructure networks that enhance people's connection with nature and serve as habitat corridors.
- The tremendous ecological diversity of the region and its native plant and animal species will be recognized and celebrated.
- Lake Michigan will be protected in a coordinated effort with other states, regions, and countries as an irreplaceable natural resource for health, recreation, tourism, and economic prosperity.
- Water quantity and quality will be sufficient to sustain aquatic ecosystems, both in Lake Michigan and in other water bodies.

Explanation:

The first bullet was modified slightly by adding a mention of ecological diversity at the end of the sentence. The second bullet was modified slightly to recognize the contributions of our open space to the health of our residents. In addition, the phrase "open space" was emphasized in the bullet. The third bullet was seen as duplicative of the first bullet, particularly since ecological diversity was now mentioned in the first bullet, and was removed to avoid repetitiveness. The fourth bullet was modified slightly to mention the lakefront as well as Lake Michigan. The fifth bullet was moved to the "water supply" section. Also, one sentence on climate change, which had previously been in the "sustainability" section, was moved here. This statement was modified to include the importance of minimizing, rather than just mitigating, the environmental effects of the region's activities.

Most of the adjustments noted above responded to comments received through the stakeholder survey. The additional emphasis on open space based on comments from the general public, who considered the preservation of open space to be an important regional goal. The same is true of the mention of the lakefront in addition to Lake Michigan, as both of these were cited as important regional features. Overall, the environmental statements were rated positively by stakeholders, so changes were minor.

Energy and resource conservation

Recommended statements:

In 2040, our region will reduce **energy consumption** and the use of natural resources. The region will remain an innovative leader in green building techniques and conservation design, promoting energy efficiency and conservation of resources. The region will also take national leadership in the research, development, and production of green energy. The region's residents and businesses will use energy conscientiously through individual actions such as recycling and use of energy-efficient products. Regional energy consumption for transportation will be reduced by abundant transportation options that provide alternatives to driving alone, by mixed-use infill development that allows many trips to be made using alternative transportation modes, and by a balanced supply of jobs and housing that limits the need to travel long distances for work. New development and redevelopment will be designed to limit energy use and minimize disturbance of sensitive environmental land.

Initial versions:

- Abundant transportation options, mixed-use infill development, and a balanced supply of jobs and housing will reduce pressure to develop in environmentally sensitive areas and will reduce regional energy consumption.
- Development that occurs in previously undeveloped areas will be designed to limit energy use and minimize disturbance of sensitive environmental land.
- The region will remain an innovative leader in green building techniques and conservation design, promoting energy efficiency and conservation of resources. The region will also take national leadership in the research, development, and production of green energy.

Explanation:

An introductory sentence was added to provide the overall context for a discussion of energy. The third bullet, which was responded to the most favorably in the survey, was unmodified but moved to the beginning of the paragraph. The first bullet was rephrased to improve clarity and refocus the statement on energy conservation. The content was also modified and expanded to explain more clearly how alternative transportation, mixed-use development, and jobs-housing balance affect regional energy consumption. The second bullet was modified slightly to also note the importance of energy considerations in redevelopment. Midway through the paragraph, an entirely new statement was added concerning the importance of individual actions in reducing energy use.

Several changes noted above were suggested through the stakeholder survey. In addition, energy was a major topic during the community conversation meetings and other public forums. Therefore, staff sought to focus and clarify the language in the vision statements on energy, and this was the purpose of the new language suggested above. Also, the language concerning individual actions that could be taken to reduce energy use responded to comments received during outreach to the general public.

Water supply

Recommended statements:

In 2040, **water** will be treated as a critical natural resource, and water resource planning will be a high regional priority. The region will continue to be known for its high quality of water and recognized for its efforts to protect it. The quality of water supplies for human use will be protected, with water demand and supply managed responsibly to ensure equitable availability. The importance of adequate water supplies to the region's prosperity will be recognized and reflected in integrated planning and development decisions. Water quantity and quality will be sufficient to sustain aquatic ecosystems throughout the region.

Initial versions:

- Water will be treated as a critical natural resource, and water resource planning will be a high regional priority. The region will continue to be known for its high quality of water and recognized for its efforts to protect it.
- The quality of water supplies for human use will be protected, with water demand and supply managed responsibly to ensure equitable availability.
- The contribution of water supply to the economic well-being of the region will be recognized and reflected in planning and development decisions.

Explanation:

The first and second bullets remained unmodified. The third bullet was rephrased to focus on the importance of water to the region's overall prosperity, which has a broader meaning that its economic well-being. A new sentence was added on aquatic ecosystems; this sentence had previously been in the "environmental health" section.

The changes noted above were made in consultation with CMAP staff involved in the Regional Water Supply Planning Group. *Please note that additional changes may be suggested by this group at their May 27, 2008 meeting, and any changes made may require additional consideration before Board endorsement is sought.*

Housing

Recommended statements:

Our leaders will recognize that safe, decent, affordable, and stable **housing** is essential for families, individuals, communities, and businesses. The region will support housing that provides all residents with access to quality education, jobs, health care, cultural and social amenities, and transportation, allowing communities and businesses to attract and retain critical workers. For residents of all incomes, the region will supply a range of housing options, broadly distributed throughout the region. Because most housing is provided by the private market, policies and programs will ensure that the private market is able to provide a full range of housing options. When the private market cannot meet the needs of all households, public programs will ensure that housing provides access to opportunity for all, including our region's disabled and elderly residents.

Initial versions:

- The region's communities and institutions will recognize that housing is a basic human need.
- All residents of the region will have access to a variety of options for decent and safe housing. The region will pursue progressive, inclusionary housing policies that respond to national trends and market conditions.
- Housing in the region will continue to be affordable compared to other major metropolitan areas, both for homeowners and for renters.
- Supplies of housing and jobs will be balanced regionally, allowing residents to find work near their homes and businesses to attract workers from nearby areas.

Explanation:

The housing vision statements have been rewritten completely based on negative reactions to the initial statements in the stakeholder survey and in the Housing committee. The new statements included above have been jointly developed by staff and the members of the Housing committee. In addition, language concerning the importance of providing housing for disabled and elderly residents was suggested by several groups in community conversation meetings during outreach to the general public.

Public health and safety

Recommended statements:

Regional planning decisions will consider and improve the **health** of residents of our region. Residents across our region will choose healthy lifestyles that benefit from the availability of open space, transportation and recreation options, healthy food, clean water, and clean air. The region's residents will be able to access our strong system of health care and medical institutions, protecting public health, social development, and economic competitiveness.

In 2040, the northeastern Illinois region will be among the **safest** urban areas in the nation. Our communities will be safer due to improved design and walkability, crime prevention strategies, effective law enforcement, improved access to opportunity, individual social responsibility, and increased civic involvement. The region and its residents will be served by robust, comprehensive systems for preventing and managing incidents -- both large and small scale -- related to public health, transportation, stormwater, fire, natural disasters, and national security.

Initial versions:

- Residents across our region will be able to choose healthy lifestyles that benefit from the availability of open space, transportation and recreation options, and the availability of healthy food and clean water.
- The region will strengthen its system of health care and medical institutions, protecting public health and economic competitiveness.
- Our communities will be safer due to improved design, effective law enforcement, and social responsibility through increased civic involvement.
- The region and its residents will be served by robust, comprehensive systems for managing incidents -- both large and small scale -- related to public health, transportation, stormwater, fire, natural disasters and national security incidents.

Explanation:

The initial statements were broken into two paragraphs, and a new introductory statement was created for each one. The first bullet was slightly modified to remove the unnecessary repetition of the word "availability" and also to add clean air as an important health consideration. The second bullet was adjusted to be oriented more toward where the region will be in 2040 (a strong system of health care) rather than the process between now and then (strengthening the system). In addition, the concept of social development was added to the phrase to indicate that health was relevant for more than simply economic purposes.

The third bullet was expanded to include links between safety and walkable communities, crime prevention strategies, and access to opportunity. The fourth bullet was modified to note the importance of preventing incidents rather than just managing them, and also removed the duplication of the word "incidents."

The changes above were made primarily in response to comments from the Human Services committee and the Chicago Community Trust. In addition, a number of the suggestions for additions to the third bullet came from the stakeholder survey.

Education

Recommended statements:

In 2040, the region's **education** system will be strong and successful. The region's schools will have funding adequate to ensure that every child will be educated to the limits of his or her capability. Learning opportunities beginning with early childhood will prepare young people across the region for a dynamic future that will enable them to participate fully in society and be productively employed. Appropriately funded educational institutions and training opportunities will allow all residents to benefit from affordable and seamless life-long learning. Our world-renowned institutions of higher education will continue to be centers for learning, innovation, and research, educating the region's students and attracting students and researchers from around the globe.

Initial versions:

- Our region's schools will have adequate and equitable funding, with well-qualified instructors, performance accountability, and fiscal efficiency across the region.
- Learning opportunities beginning with early childhood will prepare young people across the region for a dynamic future that will enable them to participate fully in society.
- Appropriately funded and aligned educational institutions will allow all residents to benefit from seamless life-long learning.
- Our world-renowned institutions of higher education will continue to be centers for innovation of research, attracting students and researchers from around the globe to study and live in northeastern Illinois.

Explanation:

A basic introductory statement was added. The first bullet, which received a number of negative reactions through the survey, was modified considerably to address education more generally, as appropriate for a long-range vision. The second bullet was modified slightly to add the concept of workforce readiness. The third bullet was changed to remove the phrase concerning the alignment of educational institutions, which was viewed as confusing. It also was modified to mention training opportunities and to indicate that the affordability of education was critical. The fourth bullet was modified slightly to reflect the importance of our region's higher education institutions serving the region's own residents as well as being globally attractive.

The above changes were based on comments received through the stakeholder survey and also suggestions made by the Chicago Community Trust. The addition concerning the affordability of education was made in response to concerns expressed during the community conversation meetings about the difficulty of affording good educational opportunities.

Economic competitiveness

Recommended statements:

The **economic strengths** of our region's interdependent communities will complement each other, with the entire region benefiting from its international recognition as a diversified center of commerce and its location at the center of the nation. Long-term economic benefits will be created by making efficient use of resources and existing infrastructure and by enhancing our environment, public health, social equity, cultural amenities, education systems, and physical infrastructure. Investments in the region's human capital will occur through workforce development programs or other training that prepares students and workers to excel in the diversified jobs of the future. The region will be a center of innovation across all disciplines, and will encourage creativity and entrepreneurial activity. The importance of freight and intermodal systems to our economy will be recognized and supported through regional policies, investments, and infrastructure decisions. The region's agriculture, which takes advantage of our fertile farmland, will be valued as an important regional resource because of the economic contribution it makes, the food and fuel it produces, the scenic value it provides, and the soil and water it protects.

Initial versions:

- The economic strengths of downtown Chicago and suburban employment centers will complement each other, with the entire region benefiting from its international recognition as a diversified center of commerce. Our reputation as the "city that works" and the "city of broad shoulders" will continue to be relevant, attracting employers in search of skilled workforces in a variety of industries and other fields to the region.
- Long-term economic benefits will be created through planning and implementation that makes efficient use of resources and enhances our environment, public health, social equity, cultural amenities, education systems, and physical infrastructure.
- Investments in the region's human capital will occur through workforce development programs or other training that prepares students and workers to excel in the diversified jobs of the future.
- Our farmland, which is among the most fertile in the nation, will be valued as an important regional resource because of the economic contribution it makes, the food and fuel it produces, the scenic value it provides, and the soil and water it protects.

Explanation:

The first bullet was modified considerably to add the references our region's communities being interdependent and our location in the nation's center. Language referring to outdated descriptions of the region was removed. The second bullet was clarified by removing the phrase "through planning and implementation," which was not adding any content to the sentence. Also, the bullet was modified by adding language concerning the importance of using our existing infrastructure. The third bullet was not modified. The fourth bullet was rephrased to refer to agriculture, rather than farmland, to provide a more economic focus. Also, a sentence was added on the topic of innovation, which is critical to the region's future economic success, and a sentence was added on the importance of freight and intermodal systems to our economy.

The changes noted above were mostly suggested by the Economic and Community Development committee, in addition to some minor adjustments noted in the stakeholder survey. Comments from the Intermodal Advisory Task Force guided the language on freight that was added.

Reinvestment

Recommended statements:

We will maximize the competitive advantage of existing physical infrastructure by encouraging **reinvestment** in our communities through mixed-use, compact development and redevelopment that emphasizes infill. Reinvestment will occur through both public and private means, will focus on both people and places, and will contribute to community prosperity, affordability, and vitality across the region. In particular, reinvestment in our existing communities will be supported by the region's existing multi-modal transportation system, which will be maintained and enhanced, leading to environmentally sensitive and fiscally efficient outcomes.

Initial versions:

- We will maximize the competitive advantage of existing physical infrastructure by encouraging reinvestment in our communities through development that is mixed-use, compact, and in infill locations.
- Public and private reinvestment in people and places will contribute to community prosperity, affordability, and vitality across the region.
- The region's existing multi-modal transportation system will be maintained and enhanced, leading to environmentally sensitive and fiscally efficient outcomes.

Explanation:

The first bullet was slightly modified to note the importance of redevelopment and also to rephrase the statement in clearer way. The second bullet was similarly rephrased in a way that clarified the statement without changing the direction or content of the statement. The third bullet was modified to explain how maintenance in the transportation system supported reinvestment but the statement was otherwise not modified.

The modifications above were mostly initiated by staff to clarify the language in this section, which had been somewhat awkwardly worded. A number of survey comments had to do with the vagueness of the language in this section, which staff has sought to reduce by the changes above.

Transportation

Recommended statements:

Through investments that reflect regional priorities, the region will have a broad range of integrated **transportation** choices that are safe, accessible, easy to navigate, affordable, and coordinated with nearby land use. Our transportation system, which is the region's link to the global economy, will give northeastern Illinois a competitive advantage over other metropolitan areas. The elements of our regional transportation system – including interstates and toll roads, arterial and local roads, public transit including paratransit, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, airports, freight and intermodal facilities, and water-based transportation options – will be maintained and strengthened through continued investment. Our region will use new technologies and other innovative means to address our transportation challenges. The freight system will be improved to increase efficiency and interconnectedness, strengthening our position as a national and international center of goods movement and intermodal logistics. Through investments and policies that support freight, our transportation system will be planned in a way that improves the movement of goods, minimizes conflict between freight and passenger transportation, and mitigates impacts on local communities.

Initial versions:

- The transportation system, which is the region's link to the global economy, will continue to be a major cog in the competitive advantage of northeastern Illinois compared to other metropolitan areas.
- Our regional systems of interstates and toll roads, public transit, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, airports, freight and intermodal facilities, and water-based transportation options will continue to serve the region's needs and support its quality of life.
- Through investments that reflect regional priorities, the region will have a broad range of integrated transportation choices that are accessible, inviting, easy to navigate, and affordable.
- Congestion will be managed effectively in all parts of the region, fostering sustainable economic activity and a high quality of life.
- Building on its history as the nation's freight capital, the region will thrive as an international hub of goods movement and intermodal logistics, due to an efficient, fluid and expandable transportation system.

Explanation:

The third bullet was moved to be the first sentence of the section, as it was judged to be the best summary of the section. In addition, a phrase concerning the importance of coordinating with land use was added, as was a reference to safety. The first bullet was modified slightly to remove the word "cog," which was not seen as a positive description, and was also changed to simplify the sentence structure. The second bullet was changed to add several elements of our transportation system, including arterial and local roads and paratransit, and also was modified to reflect that these are all elements of the overall system, rather than separate systems. It also was modified to emphasize the importance of continued investment in maintenance and improvement. The fourth bullet was broadly disliked, as lowered congestion was seen as a result of the other vision statements, rather than a vision in itself, and this bullet has been removed. The fifth bullet was revised substantially, including breaking it into two sentences, to emphasize the importance of freight within our region's transportation system. An additional sentence was added to describe the importance of using innovation and technology in our planning for transportation systems.

Most of the changes noted above were suggested by the Transportation committee, the Intermodal Advisory Task Force, and local government stakeholders. Also, the addition of paratransit, as well as the importance of having a safe transit system, was added based on comments gathered during community conversations with the general public, particularly the disabled population.

Coordinated planning and government

Recommended statements:

The region's governance systems will be characterized by high degrees of **intergovernmental coordination and planning**. Leaders will recognize the interdependence of our communities and will work across political boundaries to address issues affecting multiple jurisdictions. While celebrating the diversity of our municipalities, the region will plan collaboratively for mutual benefit to promote efficiency and equity in planning our region's economic, environmental, social, educational, and infrastructure systems. Planning for physical infrastructure and the use of land will be coordinated, creating links to social systems like health care, public safety, education, and social services. On major inter-regional issues, our leaders will coordinate with neighboring regions in Wisconsin, Indiana, Michigan, and Canadian provinces. The region will make decisions concerning physical infrastructure that consider long-term sustainability in terms of both operational and capital expenses.

Initial versions:

- Our region's leaders will look beyond political boundaries to address inter-related challenges and to find solutions that maximize quality of life across the region.
- While celebrating the diversity of the region's municipalities, we will share resources and plan collaboratively to promote efficiency and equity in planning our region's economic, environmental, social, and infrastructure systems.
- Planning for physical infrastructure and the use of land will be coordinated, creating links to social systems like health care, public safety, education, and social services.
- On major inter-regional issues, our leaders will coordinate with their counterparts in Wisconsin, Indiana, Michigan, other neighboring regions, and Canadian provinces.
- Intergovernmental cooperation based on mutual benefit will structure taxation in the region to promote reinvestment and equitable access to resources among communities. The region will make decisions concerning physical infrastructure that consider long-term sustainability in terms of both operational and capital expenses.

Explanation:

An initial sentence was added to introduce the topic of intergovernmental coordination and planning. In the first bullet, the phrase "our region's" was removed to avoid repetitiveness. Also, language was added to emphasize the interdependence of our communities, which is a major reason why intergovernmental coordination is important. The second bullet removed the phrase "share resources," which had caused concern for local stakeholders, included educational systems as an area for coordination, and added the recognition that coordinated planning was for mutual benefit. The third bullet was not modified, and the fourth was modified slightly to clarify that we will coordinate with neighboring regions. In the fifth bullet, the second sentence was not modified, while the first one was removed. Based on comments from committees and stakeholders, it was determined that taxation, while important to address in the *GO TO 2040* plan, was too specific to be included in the overall vision.

The changes to the statements above were mainly suggested by municipal stakeholders and the Land Use committee. The changes to bullets two and five were discussed at the Planning Coordinating Committee meeting on March 14, 2008 and the changes suggested above were determined to be on track.

Civic involvement

Recommended statements:

Planning processes will thoroughly inform residents about issues and decisions to ensure meaningful **civic involvement**. Between now and 2040, our residents will have the opportunity to take civic pride in their communities and will actively help shape action on the issues that contribute to a livable region. Planning processes will encourage, respect, and incorporate contributions from people of all backgrounds, ethnicities, cultures, and ages. The region's strong history of advocacy by neighborhood, civic, and business organizations will continue, and these organizations will contribute to public policy decisions. Our residents will do volunteer work that contributes to the well-being of the region, and will participate in government by voting in each election.

Initial versions:

- Between now and 2040, residents from across the region will take civic pride in their communities and will actively help shape action on the full range of regional issues that contribute to a livable region.
- Planning processes will encourage, respect, and value contributions from people of all backgrounds, ethnicities, cultures, and ages.
- Residents of the region will stay informed about issues and decisions through planning processes that create frequent, manageable, and meaningful involvement.
- The region's strong history of advocacy by neighborhood, civic, and business organizations will continue, and these organizations will contribute to public policy discussions.

Explanation:

The third bullet was rephrased to make it more active, and was moved to the beginning of the paragraph to serve as the introduction to the civic involvement statements. The first bullet was modified to indicate that residents would have the opportunity to be involved, recognizing that this should be a choice rather than a requirement. Also, the repetitive use of the word "region" was reduced in this statement. The second bullet was modified to replace the word "value," which was somewhat redundant, with "incorporate," to indicate that contributions are considered in planning processes. The fourth bullet was modified slightly to recognize the involvement of these organizations in decisions, not just discussions. Finally, a sentence was added to reflect the importance of volunteer work and participation in the democratic process.

Most of the changes above were suggested by the Citizens Advisory Committee, with additional contributions from the Chicago Community Trust and the stakeholder survey.