

RESOLUTION

CHICAGO METROPOLITAN AGENCY FOR PLANNING

Whereas: Northeastern Illinois is facing a transit funding crisis that was independently verified by Illinois State Auditor General William Holland in his March 2007 performance audit: *Mass Transit Agencies of Northeastern Illinois: RTA, CTA, METRA, and PACE*.

Whereas: The needs, costs and urgency to invest in the region's transit system has been further documented in the RTA's *Moving Beyond Congestion* report, which was endorsed by the Chicago Transit Authority, Metra and Pace:

Whereas: The region's transit system provides over 2 million rides each day, is critical to our regional economy, is the only transportation option for thousands of elderly and disabled residents, and is the most effective method of reducing air pollution ;

Whereas: The CMAP Board's vision is to provide the framework that will help our region connect its land use to the transportation systems, preserve its environment, and sustain its economic prosperity.

Whereas: The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning is responsible for transportation planning in the region, and is required by law to:

- "Identify and promote regional priorities."
- "... plan for the most effective public and private investments in the northeastern Illinois region ..."
- Prepare "A plan for a coordinated and integrated transportation system for the region consisting of a multimodal network of facilities..."
- "...prepare and adopt, ...a transportation financial plan for the region..."

Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved:

The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning requests that the Illinois General Assembly and the Governor of Illinois address the

transportation crisis in northeastern Illinois with legislation that will include the following elements:

- 1. As recommended by the Auditor General, new authority and responsibility for the RTA that will permit the agency to be a more effective financial oversight, planning and coordination agency in order to achieve the most integrated and efficient regional transit system.**
- 2. Authority for the RTA to increase taxes in the northeastern Illinois region to fund transit to operate and enhance the transit network at levels consistent with the vision of the Moving Beyond Congestion Strategic Plan to achieve world class standing in relation to other urban regions across the country and internationally.**
- 3. A state capital program in which transit is sufficiently funded at the level identified in the Moving Beyond Congestion Strategic Plan to maintain, enhance and expand the transit network.**
- 4. Changes in the CTA pension and retiree health care programs that are sustainable over time and fair to the employees.**