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# Transit planning looks to 2040

Officials seek public input with an eye toward future

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Planning officials, concerned with exploding population growth, haphazard development and unmet transportation needs, are hoping to formulate a new strategy to guide northeastern Illinois for the next 30 years.

To do it, they are encouraging the public to participate in a campaign called Go to 2040 to describe how they want the region to have evolved by that time.

The Chicago Metropolitan Agen-

cy for Planning, created by the Illinois legislature in 2005 to integrate land-use planning and transportation in the seven-county area, is kicking off the public participation effort Monday.

Go to 2040 is metropolitan Chicago's first truly comprehensive regional planning effort, said Randy Blankenhorn, the planning agency's executive director.

Previous plans have been drawn up separately by the former agencies that were combined to form the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, the Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission and the Chicago Area Transportation Study.

"The real difference is that most plans are just that, just plans," Blan-

kenhorn said. "This is more strategic—what it takes to get it done. The goal is to actually implement and not just create a plan. We think it will have some teeth in it."

Go to 2040 will help northeastern Illinois deal with an estimated 2.8 million new residents and 1.8 million jobs in the next three decades, officials said.

Blankenhorn pointed specifically to Kendall County, which the Census Bureau announced last week swelled by more than 42,000 people from 2000 to 2007, a 77.5 percent rise, making it tops in the U.S. among counties with 10,000 people or more.

The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning's initiative is intended to shape the region's trans-

portation system and development patterns while addressing "quality of life issues" such as the environment, economic development, housing, education and human services, officials said.

The campaign is being launched in a partnership with the Chicago Community Trust, which is providing financial and research support.

The public will have the opportunity to comment on alternative scenarios.

Based on the chosen scenario, the Go to 2040 plan will be finalized in 2010 and implementation will begin.

The public can provide input on Go to 2040 at [www.goto2040.org](http://www.goto2040.org).

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