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NEW CHICAGO STUDY AIMS TO IMPROVE TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS

Participants from the Latino community are especially needed

Chicago, IL, February 29, 2012 - What kind of transportation do you use to go to work? Do you take the bus, the train, or do you drive? What kind of transportation do you use to pick up the kids from school? How far do you walk to catch the bus or drive around to find parking? These are just some of the questions asked in an upcoming transportation study sponsored by the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP).

CMAP will be conducting the study within the Chicago metropolitan area and is working closely with community based organizations to maximize participation. According to CMAP's Ricardo Lopez , "Community based organizations are a vital part of the study." The study consists primarily of a survey about the travel patterns of households within the Chicago region.

Recognized community based organizations will invite families to participate and provide assistance with completing the survey. These community organizations are well aware of the importance of family privacy, and surveyors will work to ensure that the identity of all respondents is kept confidential—only the community organizations who work with respondents will have access to their contact information.

CMAP is a regional agency responsible for, among other things, transport planning in the region. "As with the Census, it is important to be counted in the region, and CMAP wants to take in consideration the travel needs of our community," said Raul Raymundo, Executive Director of The Resurrection Project and CMAP board member.

To improve transportation within the Chicago region, CMAP is in the process of planning for adequate transport, roads, and highways for the near and long term. It is critical that the Latino community be heard so that these plans address their transportation needs.

Participating community organizations include The Resurrection Project, El Instituto del Progreso Latino, Erie Neighborhood House, Mujeres Latinas en Acción, Centro de Información, Spanish Community Center, Family Focus Aurora, Family Focus Bensenville, Mano a Mano Family Resource Center, Community Action Agency for McHenry County, and HACES.

CMAP was created in 2005 as the comprehensive regional planning organization for the northeastern Illinois counties of Cook, DuPage, Kane, Kendall, Lake, McHenry, and Will. By state and federal law, CMAP is responsible for producing the region's official, integrated plan for land use and transportation. The agency projects that metropolitan Chicago will gain 2.8 million new residents and 1.8 million jobs in the next three decades. The GO TO 2040 plan develops and

implements strategies to address that projected growth. Completed in 2010, the plan shapes the region's transportation system and development patterns, while also addressing the natural environment, economic development, housing, education, human services and other factors shaping quality of life. Visit www.cmap.illinois.gov/2040 for more details about the GO TO 2040 plan.

To obtain more information about the survey, please call 1-855-308-2319. Spanish-speaking operators are available. Additional information about the survey, its sponsors, the participating community organization, survey materials, and contact information can be found at the project website: www.traveltracker2012.com. For additional information about CMAP, visit www.cmap.illinois.gov.

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