Chicago's Future: Dominated by Hollywood Robot-Generated Carnage or Something Friendlier?

This is not CMAP's vision of Chicago's future... Transformers set photo by Carrie Sloan

Two very different visions of Chicago's future on public display right now. There is the ruinous pocked street scape from the high-profile carnage of *Transformers 3* film sets laying waste to our town's iconic sites. And there is the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning's GO TO 2040, a 400+ page sequel to Daniel Burnham's *Plan of Chicago* with high hopes for the Chi in the decades to come. Think of this as *Optimus Prime* vs. *Primarily Optimistic*. And while it lacks stars, throngs of gawkers, wrecked cars and wall-to-wall media attention, CMAP's plan has the advantage of being far more approachable than Shia LaBeouf or Josh Duhamel---heck, the folks pulling GO TO 2040 together actually want your input.

GO TO 2040 is a comprehensive regional plan envisioning the changes necessary to keep Chicagoland economically competitive in the next 30 years. And what a competition it will be. The document predicts a world dominated by a handful of mega-regions. Randall Blankenhorn, CMAP's executive director told the Chicago News Cooperative, "It's no longer Chicago against Joliet and Waukegan and Elgin. It's us against India and China and Brazil."

In order to keep up, we seem to have a lot of work to do over the next quarter century. CMAP believes we will need to attract millions more people to the region, fix up our transportation systems to move goods and all those newbies around more efficiently, and generally class up the joint a bit by embracing a more livable community model. There is plenty in there on water and energy conservation, improved parks and open space, sustainable local food, public transportation investments, improved education and reformed tax policy. Whew… it is quite a list. Seems like we might need a couple giant robots point advanced weapons at some heads to fulfill that aggressive infrastructure agenda.

But don't take our word for it. The whole plan is available for you to peruse at www.goto2040.org. Once you've leafed through the voluminous document, the planning agency wants to hear what you think. CMAP is taking public comments through August 6. While the document is not legally binding, it does present a framework for policymakers, infrastructure managers, and funders will take very seriously as an agenda setter in the future. The massive transportation center we heard about earlier this year and high speed rail are in the plan, but what else would you like to see covered? Re-reverse the Chicago River? Clean up our power grid? Maybe even end massive movie-related clusterstuffs that tie up downtown for days at a time? Thankfully, we do not have to choose between CMAP's vision and the impacts of warring aliens ripping into our boulevards and bridges (hey, if they come, there's not much we can do about it!). So, let's hear your suggestions on the stuff we can control.

By JoshMogerman in News on July 17, 2010 3:00 PM 0 Comments 4 Likes 1242 Views

CHICAGO METROPOLITAN AGENCY FOR PLANNING | CMAP | DANIEL BURNHAM | GO TO 2040 | TRANSFORMERS 3

EMAIL THIS ENTRY

To: From:

Message (not required):

SHARE THIS ENTRY

submit to digg tweet this

add to stumble upon post to facebook

add to reddit

OTHER INTERESTING STORIES

Michelin Selects Chicago for Destination Guide (12)

Sweatin', Stormin' (11)

Put A 'Fork In It: Pitchfork Music Fest, Day 2 (11)

MORE

CONTRIBUTE

Latest Tip:

Why is it that the city council (Aldermen) are able to vote themselves a raise whenever they want and
[more]

Latest Photo:

CONTRIBUTE NOW!

RECENT COMMENTS

Speedster on Jordan On Lebron: I Wanted To Beat The Best, Not Join Them: Yeah, I can see that now, if her were talking about the Bulls...I feel that...

Spook on Jordan On Lebron: I Wanted To Beat The Best, Not Join Them: I've never been a "fan" of Jordan, but this is the most courageous thing he's...

Louis on Review: *Inception*: Inception does exactly what you want SciFi to do, present a world of new ideas....

Navin on Jordan On Lebron: I Wanted To Beat The Best, Not Join Them: whut, there's nothing so sinister in saying "my team". It's the normal way anyone would...

forg on Put A 'Fork In It: Pitchfork Music Fest, Day 3: The New Castle stuff wasn't great, but it was far better than Heineken. It was...

SUBSCRIBE

Use an RSS reader to stay up to date with the latest news and posts from Chicagoist.

add chicagoist 6

All Our RSS

FEATURED STORIES

Farmers Market Roundup: A Hidden Gem in Rogers Park

Iowa Tea Party Removes Obama/Hitler/Lenin Billboard

Here We Go! Our Picks For The 2010 Pitchfork Music Festival

China Premier: Investment Climate Stable
TheStreet

Could the Chicago River be in for some big changes soon?
Chicagoist

Bright Light On A Shadowy Agency: MWRD In The News Again: Chicagoist: Chicago News, Food, Arts &

Put A 'Fork In It: Pitchfork Music Fest, Day 1
Chicagoist

Woman On Chicago's Most Wanted List Caught
Chicagoist

POST A COMMENT (COMMENT POLICY)

You must be logged in to comment. Please Register Today or Sign In.

SIGN IN

Username:

Password:

GO

OR WITH

NEW AROUND HERE?

Before you can comment, you need to register. It's fast (and free)!

« PREVIOUS

Home

Transformers 3 Brings Action, Apocalypse To Downtown

Happy Ending For Book Bike

2003-2010 Gothamist LLC. All rights reserved. Terms of Use & Privacy Policy. We use MovableType.

Web2PDF
converted by Web2PDFConvert.com