



# Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

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**To: CMAP Working Committees**

**Date: October 2007**

**From: Bob Dean, Principal Regional Planner**

**Re: Regional Vision Development**

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The attached document contains the latest draft of vision statements to be included in the regional vision. It was prepared based on the feedback received at the September 12 visioning event as well as additional staff work.

The first five pages of this document contain the current vision statements. Later pages present the modifications of the original vision statements made at the visioning event and the feedback recorded through keypad polling to provide a sense of how the results of the meeting affected the development of the current vision statements.

## **Action Requested**

The working committees will be asked to review the current vision statements at upcoming meetings and contribute to the further strengthening and refinement of these statements. In addition, the current vision statements will be released in mid-October for public input through an online and paper survey.

## **DRAFT Regional Vision Statements**

### **October 3, 2007**

In 2040, the northeastern Illinois region will be a magnet attracting new, diverse residents from all over the world. The region will be known for a high quality of life, based on its sustainable, equitable, and inclusive approaches to planning.

#### Quality of Life

- 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.

#### Sustainability

- 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.

#### Equity

- 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.

In 2040, decision-making in northeastern Illinois will be informed by considerations of environmental health, energy use, and water supply.

#### Environmental Health

- 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.

#### Energy and Resource Conservation

- 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.

#### Water Supply

- 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.

In 2040, our region will have equitable and inclusive social systems that foster an educated, healthy, safe, and involved populace.

### Housing

- 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.

### Public Health and Safety

- 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.

### Education

- 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.

In 2040, the economy of northeastern Illinois will enjoy a global status that ensures superior job opportunities for all socio-economic groups.

#### Economic Competitiveness

- 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.

#### Reinvestment

- 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.

#### Transportation Accessibility and Efficiency

- 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.

In 2040, governance systems in northeastern Illinois will feature a high degree of coordination and civic involvement.

#### Coordinated Planning and Government

- 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.

#### Civic Involvement

- 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.

## Background Material for Vision Development

### Quality of Life

#### Statements from visioning event:

- In 2040, the Chicago region will be a magnet attracting new, diverse residents from all over the world due to its sustainable quality of life hallmarked by civic engagement.
- The region will consist of attractive, interdependent communities with diverse housing options, multi-modal transportation and recreation choices, equitable access to employment, education and other regional assets.
- Communities will have distinct identities, built on their histories, natural and physical assets and aesthetic preferences reflecting the unique character of their residents and businesses.
- All residents of the region will be safe, healthy, educated, mobile and involved in their communities (with sustainable development, protecting open space and economic growth) regardless of age, income and ethnicity, collectively improving the overall quality of life.

#### Keypad polling results:

Very positive. 52% positive, 34% neutral, 14% negative.

#### New vision statements:

- In 2040, the northeastern Illinois region will be a magnet attracting new, diverse residents from all over the world. The region will be known for a high quality of life, based on its sustainable, equitable, and inclusive approaches to planning.
- 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.

*Some phrases moved to Equity section.*

### Sustainability

#### Statements from visioning event:

- The region's systems and activities will be sustainable in terms of the environment, equity, and government through a global approach that considers the needs of future generations in an intensive metropolitan economy with a public or private champion for sustainability.
- The region will actively mitigate the effects of its activities on the environment, including climate change and will be prepared to adapt to the likely effects on the environment.
- Sustainability is possible if the leaders of today and the future consider the impact of their decisions on conservation of the natural environment, economic health, quality of life, and regional equity, with an emphasis on education.

**Keypad polling results:**

Neutral. 30% positive, 53% neutral, 18% negative.

**New vision statements:**

- 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.

### Equity

**Statements from visioning event (first table):**

- In 2040, the region as a whole will benefit the most by pursuing equitable objectives that benefit each part of the region in terms of overall livability.
- Policy and Investment decisions must consider their impacts on the region's diverse residents.
- All residents must have equitable access to economic opportunity, infrastructure, natural resources, housing and other public assets.
- Intergovernmental cooperation through collaborative planning that eliminates fragmented power of independent actors will be key to achieving equity.

**Statements from visioning event (second table):**

- In 2040, the region as a whole while recognizing individual histories will benefit the most by pursuing equitable objectives that benefit each part of the region in terms of environmental justice, public health and safety, public and intermodal transportation, education, housing, taxation and overall livability.
- Policy and investment decisions will result in positive impacts on the region's diverse residents equally
- All residents must have equitable access to participate in the economy in a way that supports economic well being and prosperity, and provides access to economic opportunity, technology/ internet communications, infrastructure, natural resources and other public assets
- Regional structure and intergovernmental cooperation through collaborative inclusive planning will be one key of many to achieving equity

**Keypad polling results:**

First table: Negative. 16% positive; 50% neutral; 34% negative

Second table: Negative. 15% positive; 61% neutral; 24% negative

**New vision statements:**

- 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.



Part 2 - Background Material for Vision Development

- 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.

*Some phrases moved to Intergovernmental Coordination section.*

## Environmental Health

### Statements from visioning event (first table):

- Metropolitan Chicago, in 2040, will exhibit protected and healthy ecosystems connected through sustained ecological functions shared by people and nature.
- The region's abundant open spaces and natural communities will be preserved through the corridors, networks and stewardship of public and private land and water resources.
- Lake Michigan, its shores and biodiversity, are irreplaceable natural resources and will be protected and enhanced.
- Design alternatives and abundant transportation options, to enhance the experience and to promote infill, and redevelopment, to reduce pressure to develop in environmentally sensitive areas, and enhance public health by creating communities that allow transportation choices.

### Statements from visioning event (second table):

- In 2040, metropolitan Chicago will become 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.
- Open space will be preserved and expanded—especially along sensitive water ways—to create green infrastructure networks that increase habitat corridors for native plant and animal species and enhance people's connection with nature.
- Lake Michigan will be protected in a coordinated effort with other states-regions-countries as an irreplaceable natural resource for health, economic prosperity (shipping, tourism, and transportation) and recreation.
- Abundant transportation options, infill, and redevelopment will reduce pressure to develop in environmentally sensitive areas, enhancing public health by creating and supporting communities that allow environmentally sensitive areas to remain intact

### Keypad polling results:

First table: Positive. 34% positive; 53% neutral; 12% negative

Second table: Very positive. 57% positive; 38% neutral; 5% negative

### New vision statements:

- In 2040, decision-making in northeastern Illinois will be informed by considerations of environmental health, energy use, and water supply.
- 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.

*Some phrases moved to Energy and Resource Conservation section.*

### **Energy and Resource Conservation**

#### **Statements from visioning event:**

- In 2040, the region will have effective local and regional stewardship for its extensive natural resources, preserved and managed using conservation principles, and seamlessly integrated with the built environment.
- Shift energy use to sources which are low or no-eco footprint and provide transportation options and a work/play/shop paradigm to create lower overall impact (eco, time, cost, herd mentality)
- Farmland will be viewed as an integral part of the region for the products it produces, the open space it provides and the soil and water resources it protects.
- The coordination of regional and local efforts will address projected water supply shortages for many parts of the region.

#### **Keypad polling results:**

Neutral. 24% positive; 55% neutral; 21% negative

#### **New vision statements:**

- 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.

*Some phrases moved to Environmental Health section.*

*Some phrases moved to Water Supply section.*

### **Water Supply**

#### **Statements from visioning event:**

- The coordination of regional and local efforts will address projected water supply shortages for many parts of the region.
- In 2040, water resource and usage planning and stewardship will be the highest priority for governments, residents, and stakeholder groups across the region, and Great Lakes basin.
- Water demand and supply will be managed responsibly to ensure equitable availability through drought and non-drought conditions alike.
- The quality of ground-and surface water supplies for human use will be protected, and replenished from each water source will be managed to protect long-term productive yields.

- Water quantity and quality will be sufficient to sustain aquatic ecosystems.

**Keypad polling results:**

Positive. 35% positive; 54% neutral; 11% negative

**New vision statements:**

- 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.

*Some phrases moved to Environmental Health section.*

## Housing

### Statements from visioning event:

- In 2040, residents of the region will have access to decent, safe and affordable housing across the region to assure baseline quality of life
- The region's communities and institutions will recognize that housing is a basic human need, and the region will balance housing with workforce
- The region's approach to housing will respond to innovative national trends and mitigate regulatory barriers to resolve traditional challenges/ problems related to spatial disconnects.

### Keypad polling results:

Negative. 25% positive; 48% neutral; 27% negative

### New vision statements:

- 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.

## Public Health and Safety

### Statements from visioning event:

- In 2040, residents will be able to choose healthy lifestyles that benefit from the availability of open space, mobility recreation options, diverse communities, and fresh locally grown food.
- To protect public health and economic competitiveness, developing health management strategies with a focus on disease prevention, wellness and avoidance of risk factors, supported by a well managed health care system, will be a priority for decision makers in the public and business sectors.
- In 2040, the region and its residents will be served by cohesive infrastructure and comprehensive systems for responding to and managing issues related to public health, security, transportation, storm water, fire, natural disasters and medical condition.
- Residents will live, move and work in communities that are safer due to improved design, effective law enforcement and social responsibility built on mutual trust and intergovernmental cooperation.

### Keypad polling results:

Neutral. 36% positive; 42% neutral; 22% negative

### New vision statements:

- 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.

### **Education**

#### **Statements from visioning event:**

- In 2040, schools will have adequate funding, with well qualified instructor, accountability in terms of school performance, fiscal efficiency, and equity 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 fully participate in society.
- Adequately funded and aligned educational institutions now (2040) allow all residents to benefit from seamless life long learning.

#### **Keypad polling results:**

Very positive. 56% positive; 32% neutral; 11% negative

#### **New vision statements:**

- 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.

## **Economic Competitiveness**

### **Statements from visioning event (first table):**

- In 2040 the regions economy will be more sustainable and the economy will be a global leader that creates a growing economy.
- Economic benefits and sustainability will be created through a comprehensive regional plan that makes efficient use of limited resources and that promotes investment in the new and existing communities by enhancing infrastructure, the environment, public health and safety, social equity and cultural and recreational amenities.
- People and goods are able to move efficiently and comfortably to all destinations throughout our region by adding capacity to existing systems, modes, intermodal hubs that will expand choices.
- Investments in education and training will prepare the region's workforce with the skills to compete in the region's global economy of 2040.

### **Statements from visioning event (second table):**

- In 2040, the region's economy will enjoy a global status that ensures superior job opportunities for all socio-economic strata across northeastern Illinois.
- Economic benefits will be created through planning and implementation that makes efficient use of energy and other resources and that reinvests in existing communities to enhance infrastructure, including transportation, environment, public health, social equity cultural amenities, and education.
- The Chicago region will thrive as the international hub of goods movement, through a fluid and expandable transportation system.
- Investments, both in dollars and human capital, evaluation and continuous improvement will prepare the region's workforce to fill with excellence the jobs for tomorrow and beyond.

### **Keypad polling results:**

First table: Positive. 37% positive; 47% neutral; 15% negative

Second table: Very positive. 50% positive; 39% neutral; 12% negative

### **New vision statements:**

- In 2040, the economy of northeastern Illinois will enjoy a global status that ensures superior job opportunities for all socio-economic groups.
- 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.

*Some phrases moved to Transportation section*

### **Reinvestment**

#### **Statements from visioning event:**

- In 2040, the region will maximize the competitive advantage of our regional infrastructure, such as: 1) national railroad network, regional transit system, air, highway crossroads, water network by choosing a reinvestment and infill strategy.
- Public and private investment in people, businesses and tax incentives, communities, homes, and physical infrastructure, will contribute to community prosperity, affordability, and vitality across the region.
- “Fix it first” and improvement policies will maintain and enhance the current and future multi-modal transportation system. This should lead to ecologically sensitive and fiscally efficient investment decisions.
- Intergovernmental cooperation based on mutual benefit will structure taxation in the region to promote reinvestment and equitable access to resources among communities, by recognizing the need for sustainability of both operations and capital, and by reflecting the true, full value of resources used.

#### **Keypad polling results:**

Neutral. 33% positive; 46% neutral; 22% negative

#### **New vision statements:**

- 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.

*Some phrases moved to Intergovernmental Cooperation section.*

### **Transportation Accessibility and Efficiency**

#### **Statements from visioning event (first table):**

- In 2040 the region’s transportation system will be accessible and efficient to ensure quality of life and economic competitiveness.
- In order to provide a broad range of transportation choices that are inviting, easy to navigate, multi-modal, integrated and seamless, an on-going and ample prioritized investment in transportation must be made.
- The transportation system will allow efficient movement with logistical support provided by intermodal centers that ease local connections to national and international markets.
- Congestion will be managed in a multi-modal transportation system that fosters sustainable economic activity and a high quality of life.

#### **Statements from visioning event (second table):**



- In 2040, the region's transportation system will be accessible and efficient to ensure the quality of life for all segments of the population and growing economic opportunity.
- Invest in using the infrastructure we have - smarter. Change pricing and incentives to make transit more attractive and driving less: higher gas taxes, paid parking, etc. Invest in system design.
- Accessible, frequent, affordable, and convenient system of transportation choices will be developed to a level that permits sustainable economic activity and a high quality of life.
- The transportation system will allow efficient movement of freight, without degrading quality of life, with logistical support provided by intermodal centers that ease local connections to national and international markets.
- Leader in developing a national freight policy.

**Keypad polling results:**

First table: Very positive. 39% positive; 53% neutral; 8% negative

Second table: Negative. 16% positive; 53% neutral; 32% negative

**New vision statements:**

- 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.

## Coordinated Planning and Government

### Statements from visioning event (first table):

- In 2040, people throughout the region will work to look beyond political boundaries and treat the natural and built environments as one.
- We will share resources to promote efficiency and equity in public educational opportunities, transportation and other infrastructure, economic development, and a healthy environment across the region.
- Planning for transportation and other infrastructure and land development and preservation, also will be done in tandem and coordinated to create both transit-oriented development and development-oriented transportation, and create links between health care, public safety, education, and social services.
- On major inter-regional issues, leaders will coordinate with their counterparts in Wisconsin, Indiana, Michigan, and other neighboring states, and create statements of joint interest agreements. Canada will be involved as part of the Great Lakes Initiative.

### Statements from visioning event (second table):

- In 2040, organizations and processes will be in place to facilitate cooperation among local officials and planners from across the region in addressing inter-related challenges that cut across jurisdictions, influence quality of life and result in solutions that create equity at the local and regional level.
- Governments will promote efficiency and service delivery to its constituents by sharing resources and reducing destructive competition, balancing the need for economic development, a healthy environment, and equity across the region
- The region will establish a vision characterized by social equity, a healthy economy and environmental enhancements. Planning for transportation and other infrastructure, land development, environmental enhancement and social justice will be integrated with each other and work towards attainment of the vision
- On major inter-regional issues such as water, air quality, transportation, and land use, leaders will be mindful of the benefits of inter-regional cooperation and coordinate with counterparts in Wisconsin, Indiana, Michigan and other neighboring states

### Keypad polling results:

First table: Positive. 37% positive; 51% neutral; 11% negative

Second table: Positive. 35% positive; 48% neutral; 18% negative

### New vision statements:

- 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.

### **Civic Involvement**

#### **Statements from visioning event:**

- Between now and 2040, residents from across the region will actively help shape action on issues that matter to them most.
- The region will have reasons and ways to engage civic involvement from people of all backgrounds, ethnicities, cultures, and ages, and their contributions must be respected and valued.
- Residents will have an opportunity to voice their opinions about regional issues – including health care, public safety, environmental justice, land use, education, water quality, employment, affordable housing, fair wages, air quality, and transportation planning – that contribute to livable communities.
- Residents of the region will be informed about issues and decisions, and be involved in a process that creates daily, manageable, and meaningful involvement, leading to a strong sense of civic pride in their communities and region. The region’s systems will not create “winners” and “losers.”

#### **Keypad polling results:**

Positive. 37% positive; 51% neutral; 12% negative

#### **New vision statements:**

- 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.

### **Future Population Needs**

#### **Statements from visioning event:**

- In 2040, needs of the region's population will be met through building on the non-tangible assets of the region (values, cultural diversity, etc.) and creating intentional collaboration of all people and their communities in the region.
- In 2040, the land use, transportation, housing and other systems will meet the full spectrum of needs of all residents.
- The impacts of policy and investment decisions on the needs of residents and businesses as they will exist in 2040, and how they will impact local communities and the region, will be addressed.

#### **Keypad polling results:**

Negative. 12% positive; 41% neutral; 47% negative

#### **New vision statements:**

*Removed as vision theme – meeting future population needs will be included throughout vision.*