



STATE OF ILLINOIS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
SPRINGFIELD 62706

JAMES R. THOMPSON
GOVERNOR

October 14, 1981

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OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY
ILLINOIS DEPT. OF
TRANSPORTATION

Mr. Donald E. Trull
Regional Federal Highway
Administrator
18209 Dixie Highway
Homewood, Illinois 60430

Dear Mr. Trull:

By this letter, I am continuing in effect the designation of the Policy Committee of the Chicago Area Transportation Study as the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the urbanized areas of Chicago, Aurora-Elgin, and Joliet in accordance with 23CFR450.106. My decision is based on the recommendations of the special committee I appointed three years ago as well as the great amount of input I have received from local elected officials throughout the region and from the involved agencies.

As you may be aware, the policy boards of CATS and NIPC reached agreement during March on a process for further integrating transportation and comprehensive planning. In essence, this agreement, unanimously endorsed by the NIPC Commission, involved ensuring NIPC with a major role in the region's long range transportation planning process. In addition, the parties agreed to add a NIPC member to the CATS Policy Board. This agreement will significantly strengthen the link between transportation and comprehensive planning by assuring comprehensive planning issues are considered prior to plan and program endorsement by the Metropolitan Planning Organization. Additionally, all of the Regional Councils of Mayors have recently endorsed the CATS Policy Committee as the Metropolitan Planning Organization.

The Policy Committee of CATS was initially named MPO for this region in 1974. The initial designations were made on an interim basis. Because of the agreement reached by CATS and NIPC,

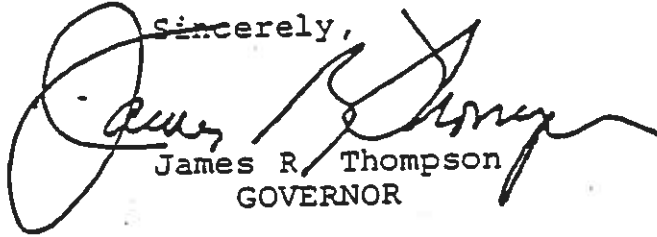
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the pending addition of NIPC to the Policy Committee, and the overwhelming local government support given to the continued designation of CATS, there is no further need to qualify or limit the designation.

Sincerely,



James R. Thompson
GOVERNOR

JRT:lw

cc: Mr. Edgar Vanneman
President, NIPC Commission
400 West Madison Street
Chicago, Illinois 60606

Mr. John D. Kramer
Chairman of CATS Policy Committee
Secretary, Illinois Dept. of Transportation
2300 South Dirksen Parkway
Springfield, Illinois 62764