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Will Council

Jim Holland
Mayor, Village of Frankfort
Will Council

June 20, 2014

«Title» «First_Name» «Last_Name»

«Job_Title»

«Organization»

«Primary_Address»

«Primary_Address_2»

«Primary_Address_City», Illinois «Primary_Address_Zip»

Dear «Salutation» «Last_Name»:

Our surface transportation system is critical to quality of life and to the Chicago region's competitive advantage. Yet in many ways the system is declining, which can be seen in worsening traffic congestion, cuts to public transit service, and deferred maintenance on roads and bridges. Current funding levels under the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21) Act are inadequate to meet these needs and the federal Highway Trust Fund is expected to reach insolvency later this year. Writing on behalf of the Council of Mayors, representing the chief executives of 283 municipalities in the seven-county Chicago region, **we urge you to support a robust, long-term reauthorization** of MAP-21.

Guided by the principles of GO TO 2040, the comprehensive regional plan for northeastern Illinois, we recognize that a strong federal role in transportation is vital and commensurate funding levels are required to support that role. Transportation projects can be large and complex, and can require multiple years to plan and construct. For those reasons, it is important to continue funding the federal transportation program through sustainable user fees that accrue to a dedicated trust fund.

In addition to securing resources for transportation, GO TO 2040 notes that it is equally important that transportation resources are spent wisely and transparently. We support the strategic investment of transportation dollars, harnessing performance data to ensure that projects are carefully selected and support regional goals.

The federal government has a vital role to play beyond funding and performance measurement. Reauthorization bills help to set national policy in areas such as environmental protection, pricing, and safety. We support a strong federal commitment to freight safety, given the density of the rail and trucking network in the Chicago region and increasing volumes of freight traffic. Recent freight rail derailments across North America underscore this need.

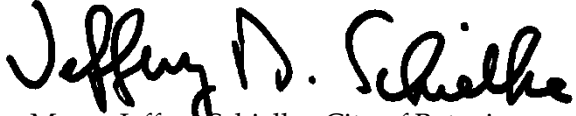
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The need for action is immediate and grave. The federal government is a critical partner in supporting a strong transportation system for the nation, and the need for such a system is particularly acute in northeastern Illinois. Again, we urge you to support adequate, sustainable funding for a long-term reauthorization to MAP-21.

Please see the attached Reauthorization Principles approved by the CMAP board on June 11, 2014.

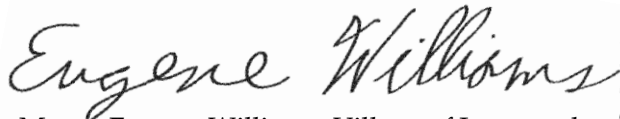
Sincerely,



Mayor Jeffrey Schielke, City of Batavia
Chairman, Council of Mayors Executive Committee



Mayor Leon Rockingham, Jr., City of North Chicago
1st Vice Chair, Council of Mayors Executive Committee



Mayor Eugene Williams, Village of Lynwood
2nd Vice Chair, Council of Mayors Executive Committee

/stk

Enclosure