



June 12, 2017

The Honorable Randall S. Blankenhorn
Secretary
Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT)
2300 S. Dirksen Parkway
Springfield, Illinois 62764

Dear Secretary Blankenhorn:

As you know, Lake, DuPage, and Kane counties, along with the City of Chicago, have implemented and operate arterial traffic management centers (TMCs) with great success. These centers have proven to be cost-effective ways to manage traffic by improving the ability of highway agencies to respond in real time to incidents, weather, and special events, and to provide information to the traveling public. TMCs are the cornerstone of arterial traffic management, and the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning's (CMAP) ON TO 2050 [Highway Operations strategy paper](#) identified that expanding their geographic coverage and hours of operation should be a regional priority.

One way to achieve TMC coverage expansion is to take a regional approach to traffic management activities. This could take many forms, from simply pursuing more agreements between jurisdictions to share real-time information and integrate signals, to establishing central signal control systems, to creating a regional arterial traffic management center to serve multiple jurisdictions. A regional center would reduce the need to integrate multiple TMCs and could save costs related to staffing, hardware, and software.

We support efforts to regionalize traffic management and invite IDOT to play a key role in this collaborative effort. Since many major routes in the areas covered by TMCs are under state jurisdiction, the Department's cooperation has been critical to the success of the existing centers. While IDOT's District 1 does not maintain an arterial TMC, the collaboration between the Department and Lake County DOT in the PASSAGE system is a good example of how surveillance and traffic signals on state roads can tie into a central system. As additional northeastern Illinois jurisdictions developed their own TMC's, IDOT has expanded this model to include them.

So far, this model has included TMC integration of state traffic signals solely within District 1. As you know, Kendall County is part of the Metropolitan Planning Organization's (MPO) planning area and is an MPO member agency. Kendall County is interested in pursuing regional traffic management efforts but, uniquely, is in IDOT District 3 rather than District 1. We hope that District 3 will support TMC development to the same extent that District 1 has.

Given the Department's current work on the statewide Intelligent Transportation Systems plan, this is a good time to discuss these issues. We invite you to continue the conversation at an

The Hon. Randall S. Blankenhorn
June 12, 2017
Page 2

upcoming meeting of CMAP's Regional Transportation Operations Coalition or to contact Mike Tuman, Assistant County Engineer for DuPage County, at michael.tuman@dupageco.org; or Jon Nelson, Engineer of Traffic for Lake County, at jpnelson@lakecountyil.gov.

Sincerely,



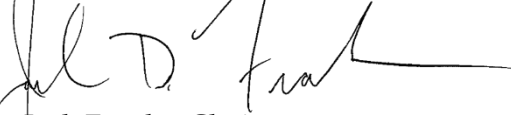
Toni Preckwinkle, President
Cook County Board of Commissioners



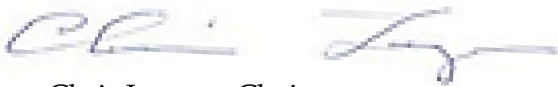
Aaron Lawlor, Chair
Lake County Board



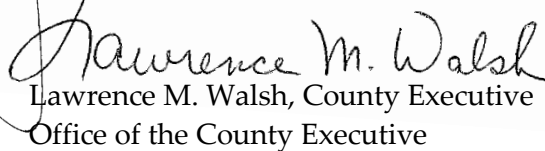
Dan Cronin, Chair
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Kane County Board



Lawrence M. Walsh, County Executive
Office of the County Executive



Scott Gryder, Chair
Kendall County Board

/stk

Enclosure: ON TO 2050 Highway Operations strategy paper

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