



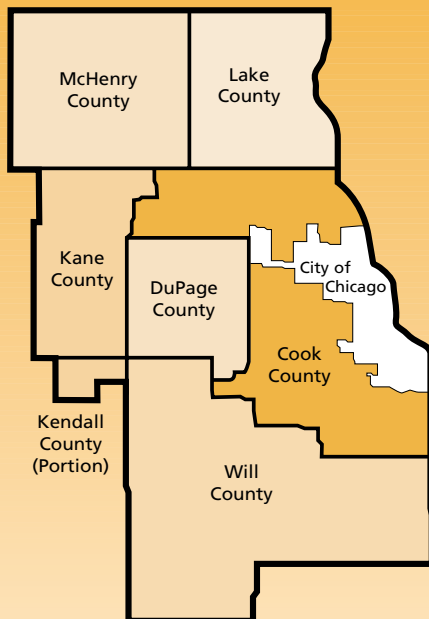
## YOUR NEEDS

### Residents Target Transportation Needs

Last summer, more than 360 residents of northeastern Illinois attended 12 *Shared Path 2030* community meetings on strategies to meet our future travel needs and to help develop a regional transportation plan. The Chicago Area Transportation Study (CATS), the metropolitan planning organization for regional transportation, held meetings in each of the six collar counties and the City of Chicago during July and August.

Residents said they wanted more public transportation choices (particularly between suburbs), safe options for bicyclists, pedestrians and the disabled, and to maintain and expand the existing transportation system.

CATS Planning Region



### How Meetings Were Conducted



Upon arrival, participants were able to review displays outlining the *Shared Path 2030* regional transportation planning process, including maps of transportation proposals specific to each meeting area. Participants were also able to view displays by the Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission (NIPC) of the preliminary 2030 population and employment forecasts and on *Common Ground*, NIPC's project to develop a new land-use plan for the region.

Participants listened to a 45-minute overview presentation on the *Shared Path 2030* regional transportation planning process, including the NIPC activities. They were then divided into small groups to review the draft *Shared Path 2030* goals and objectives and to select three objectives for discussion.

After selecting the objectives, participants were directed by meeting facilitators to discuss various strategies for accomplishing those objectives. Rather than focusing on specific transportation proposals in one area, participants were asked to think about solutions to transportation problems and needs that could be applied throughout the six-county region.

**Most often, participants chose to discuss the following two objectives:**

- Affordable transportation choices
- Better efficiency of the transportation system

**Also chosen for discussion although less frequently, were:**

- Natural environment
- Compatibility with local land uses
- Management and operation of the transportation system

Participants were also asked to respond to several surveys about their transportation needs, their personal views on the draft goals and objectives and the meeting itself.

*(continued under "Meetings" on page 2)*

## Common Themes Heard by CATS



As mentioned earlier, NIPC has a major effort underway to develop *Common Ground*, a new land-use plan for northeastern Illinois in which many transportation issues have been identified. In addition to *Common Ground*, Metropolis 2020, a business advocacy group, and the Center for Neighborhood Technology (CNT) each held meetings around the region on transportation issues. CATS distilled the information coming from all three groups into eight commonly heard themes. The eight themes were:

1. More public transit service
2. Integrate public transit systems
3. Better linkages between transportation and land use
4. More bike and pedestrian options
5. Maintain and expand existing system
6. Improve existing roads and intersections
7. Better service for seniors and people with disabilities
8. Improve freight capacity

Participants at CATS meetings last summer were surveyed to identify their transportation needs. CATS staff compared the results of the surveys with the eight themes. A report back to participants occurred at the end of the meetings. The most frequently mentioned themes from all 12 meetings were:

- More public transit service
- More bike and pedestrian options
- Maintain and expand the existing system
- Improve existing roads and intersections

Participants also mentioned reducing congestion as an important need. In general, participants expressed needs consistent with what had been heard at the NIPC, CNT and Metropolis 2020 events.

## Meetings *(continued from page 1)*

### Shared Path 2030 Goals and Objectives

In addition to the group discussions on the selected objectives, participants were given the opportunity to comment on all the draft goals and objectives. Participants were asked to identify the three most important objective categories and any areas they felt had not been covered. “More transportation choices” and “better efficiency” were the most frequently selected objectives in absolute numbers, as well as by meeting location.

Overall, no one indicated disagreement with the content of the draft goals and objectives. Most comments dealt with the following additional objective categories:

- Getting people out of their cars
- Better inter-agency coordination and efficiency
- Adding (or not) system capacity
- Linking transportation options with affordable housing

### Strategies To Make Objectives A Reality

After selecting objectives to discuss, participants were directed by meeting facilitators to discuss various strategies for accomplishing those objectives. While dozens of strategies were identified, some of the most frequently mentioned were:

- Universal transit fare card
- Incentives for employer-based programs, such as car/van pooling, transit checks, shuttles
- Expanded transit park-n-ride lots, including shared lots

## Shared Path 2030 Timetable—Public Involvement

**2030 Planning Process Begins**

June 2001

CATS receives transportation proposals from throughout the region

**Community Meeting #1**  
Draft goals and transportation proposals presented to public

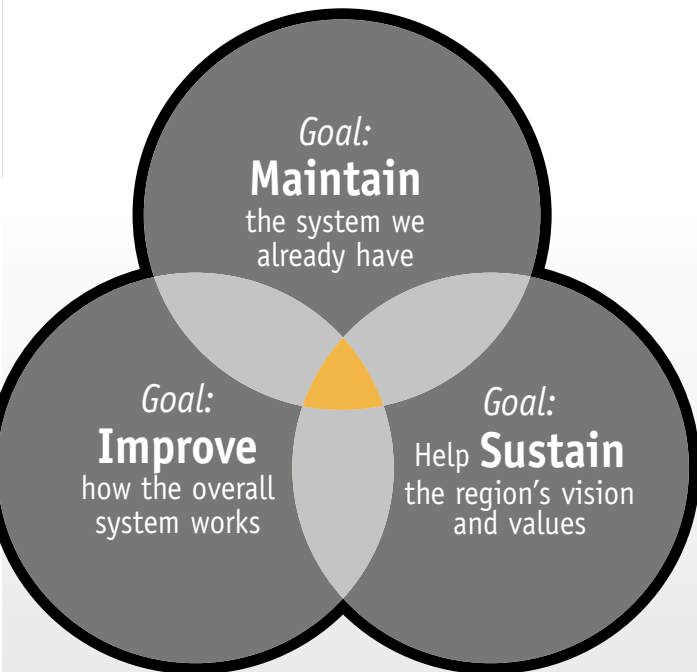
July/August 2002

Detailed evaluation of transportation

## Next Steps Toward a 2030 Regional Transportation Plan

- More coordinated traffic signal systems
- More right/left turn lanes
- Off-road bike paths
- Economic incentives for higher density infill and transit-oriented development

Many strategies for solving transportation problems met more than one objective. Strategies that address several objectives are more likely to be evaluated in the alternatives development phase of the *Shared Path 2030* process.



*Transportation objectives identified by the public related to these overall goals (above).*

The CATS Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Committee is using the results of the meetings to develop multi-modal transportation alternatives. These alternatives will be comprised of the various projects, systems and strategies proposed as solutions to transportation problems. These alternatives will be evaluated in terms of the plan's emerging goals and objectives in light of fiscal and air quality constraints.

CATS will be using computer modeling techniques for evaluating different alternatives, because doing so helps us “learn” how various projects and systems perform using a wide range of performance measures. These measures are ways to calculate the potential benefits and impacts of certain projects, systems and strategies. Four alternatives are being developed by the RTP Committee that range from focusing on improvement of the existing system to new additions to our highway and transit systems. These alternatives are not mutually exclusive. By looking at various thematic alternatives, the committee can select the projects, systems and strategies that will be included in the 2030 draft recommended plan.

Over the next few months RTP Committee members will be working on evaluating these alternatives and preparing a draft recommended plan. A newsletter early in 2003 will report on this work and describe the next round of community outreach activities. For more information, visit the CATS website, [www.catsmpo.com](http://www.catsmpo.com) and click on *Shared Path 2030*.

Evaluation of alternatives

**Community Meeting #2**  
Draft 2030 Regional Transportation Plan elements presented to public

Final socio-economic and air quality evaluation

**Public Hearings**  
Formal public comment period held and 2030 RTP adopted

Spring 2003

Late Summer/Fall 2003

CHICAGO AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY  
300 W. ADAMS, 2ND FLOOR  
CHICAGO, IL 60606  
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



# THE 2030 REPORTER

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Regional Transportation Plan

## FOR MORE INFORMATION



If you have questions, e-mail us at [SP2030@catsmpo.com](mailto:SP2030@catsmpo.com), visit the CATS web site at [www.catsmpo.com](http://www.catsmpo.com) and click on *Shared Path 2030* for more information, or call 312/793-3466.

## ABOUT CATS



*The Chicago Area Transportation Study (CATS) was formed in 1955 to develop the first comprehensive long-range transportation plan for northeastern Illinois. For more than 45 years, CATS has been responsible for planning and programming transportation improvements in this region. CATS is currently developing the 2030 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) through a process called Shared Path 2030.*