

SHARED PATH 2030

Regional Transportation Plan for Northeastern Illinois

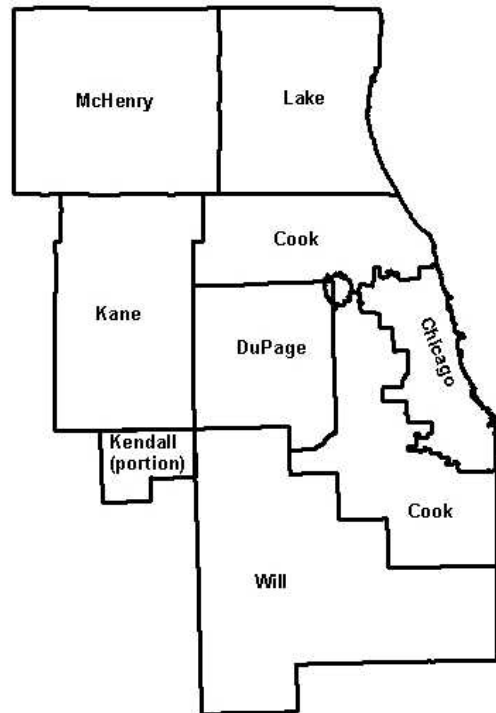
INTRODUCING *SHARED PATH 2030*

Eight million people live in northeastern Illinois with perhaps a million and a half more expected in the next thirty years. Individuals, families and businesses make transportation decisions every day. They choose where to go and how to get there, weighing factors such as availability of options, expense, convenience, safety and overall quality of life. Some people value reading a newspaper on transit or combining exercise with their commute by walking or cycling. Other people prefer being able to carry items (and people) in a car. Many of us combine various transportation options into our daily lives.

Long range planning is essential to meeting this region's complex transportation needs. Transportation planners must look ahead twenty years and beyond to identify major transportation projects and gather the resources to implement them.

Shared Path 2030 is the process that will result in a new Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) for northeastern Illinois. This plan will guide transportation decisions and investments in the years to come. Past regional transportation plans have laid the groundwork for major projects and system improvements, such as the CTA Orange Line to Midway and the Elgin/O'Hare Expressway.

Shared Path 2030 is coordinated by the Chicago Area Transportation Study (CATS). CATS is designated by the governor and locally elected officials as the Metropolitan Planning Organization for northeastern Illinois. The CATS planning area covers Cook, Lake, McHenry, Will, Kane, DuPage counties and parts of Kendall County. CATS' Policy Committee, comprised of policy level representatives of local governments and transportation planning and operating agencies, has the primary role in developing the region's transportation plan.



Northeastern Illinois Planning Area

This is the first in a series of newsletters to provide updates on the regional transportation planning process and announce opportunities to get involved. To learn more about Shared Path 2030, or the regional transportation planning process in general, visit www.catsmpo.com. A special section of the site is devoted to Shared Path 2030. From there, you can sign up to receive email announcements about meetings and the plan's progress.

*Questions can also be directed to Mr. Tom Murtha
312.793.3466 or
tmurtha@catsmpo.com.*

GUIDING THE PROCESS

Working under the direction of the Policy Committee, the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Committee is providing overall direction for *Shared Path 2030*. Committee members are listed in the adjacent box. Two working groups are assisting the committee: the highway working group and the transit working group. These groups are gathering and packaging proposals to be considered during the plan's development (see next page for details on the call for proposals).

Several task forces and committees will also provide specialized assistance for *Shared Path 2030*.

- Bicycle and Pedestrian Task Force
- Intermodal Task Force
- Air Quality and Transportation Management Task Force
- Advanced Technologies Task Force
- Community Mobility Task Force
- Public Involvement Task Force
- Management and Operations Committee

Public participation is encouraged at all meetings. For more information on meetings and task force activities, visit www.catsmpo.com. CATS also has a 24-hour hotline, 312.793.7818, with a recorded message of upcoming meetings.

<p style="text-align: center;">RTP COMMITTEE MEMBERS</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Chicago Department of Transportation</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Counties Representative</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Illinois State Toll Highway Authority</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Council of Mayors Representative</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Regional Transportation Authority</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Illinois Department of Transportation</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Private Transportation Providers Representative</i></p>

2020 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN, 2000 EDITION

In order for a metropolitan region to receive federal funds to improve highway and transit systems, it must have a long-range transportation plan developed according to specific federal regulations. The Policy Committee approved the *2020 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), 2000 Edition* in October 2000. The target adoption date for *Shared Path 2030* is October 2003. Until that time, the *2020 RTP* is guiding transportation investments in the region.

COMMON GROUND--REGIONAL LAND USE PLAN

The transportation system must be continually improved and expanded to meet the needs of a growing and diverse population while promoting regional development that is fiscally, environmentally and socially sustainable. CATS and the Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission (NIPC) are partners in an interagency agreement that outlines an integrated land use and transportation planning process. The agreement describes how growth management and land use policies serve as the groundwork for transportation planning.

Common Ground is NIPC's region-wide effort to develop a consensus on how the region should be shaped in the future. *Common Ground* will produce a new Comprehensive General Plan, including a preferred regional land use plan expected to be completed in mid 2004. For more information on *Common Ground* contact NIPC at 312.454.0400 or at www.nipc.cog.il.us.

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

An important part of the planning process is identifying improvements to the transportation system that will help meet travel needs for residents and businesses while addressing the region's goals of fiscal, social and environmental sustainability.

CATS is seeking proposals for regionally significant transportation projects, systems and strategies to be considered for inclusion in the regional transportation plan. Proposals that are regional (as opposed to local in scope) can be supported with statements such as:

- Transportation choices will change for thousands of people.
- Development on thousands of acres of land will be affected.
- A transportation problem affecting thousands of travelers will be solved.

Proposals fall into one of the three following categories. Examples are included to help you generate ideas and are not intended to indicate any established bounds or priorities.

- Transportation improvement **projects** (such as the construction or reconstruction of freeways, tollways, commuter rail and light rail).
- Modifications to existing transportation **systems** (such as improvements to bus networks and the Strategic Regional Arterial System; implementation of bikeway networks; a series of rail grade separation projects; and a regional system of enhanced traffic signals).
- Transportation **strategies**. (Strategies may be directed at the financing, development, management or operation of any component of the transportation system. Examples include controlling the location of driveways along arterial roads, coordinating transit schedules and improving intersection safety for pedestrians and people with disabilities.)

Proposal submittal forms with more detailed instructions and examples are available at www.catsmpo.com/sp2030/proposals.htm. You may also request that these documents be mailed or faxed to you by contacting Mr. Tom Murtha at 312.793.3466 or tmurtha@catsmpo.com. He is available if you need help filling out the form. **Submittals are due at CATS by Friday, April 10, 2002.**

WHAT'S NEXT?

Goals and Objectives

The RTP Committee is developing draft goals and objectives that will guide decisions on which projects and policies to include in the 2030 RTP. To inform this process, CATS has been investigating issues such as improved accessibility, orderly land development, economic opportunity and social equity. The RTP Committee will also refer to other efforts, such as *Common Ground*. A major public outreach event will focus on the review of these draft goals and objectives. The next *Shared Path 2030* newsletter will be devoted to this stage of the process.

Revenue Forecasts

The ability to improve the region's transportation system is constrained by available financial resources. Beginning in March, CATS will forecast revenues the region might receive between now and 2030. These forecasts will be based on past revenues, assumptions about increases in federal, state and local funding in the future, and new revenue initiatives.

Population and Land Use Forecasts

An essential element of transportation planning is the preparation of credible forecasts of future population, households and employment. NIPC is currently working on regional population and employment totals for 2030. NIPC will complete this task later this year along with preliminary small area forecasts for use in evaluating transportation alternatives.

SHARED PATH 2030 TIMELINE

Public Involvement	Throughout Process
Call for Proposals	Winter 2002
Develop Goals and Objectives	Spring 2002
Develop Transportation Alternatives	Summer 2002
Evaluate Transportation Alternatives	Fall/Winter 2002-2003
Develop Recommended 2030 Regional Transportation Plan	Winter/Spring 2003
Evaluate Recommended 2030 Regional Transportation Plan	Summer 2003
Adoption of 2030 Regional Transportation Plan	Fall 2003

The Chicago Area Transportation Study (CATS) was formed in 1955 to develop the first comprehensive long-range transportation plan for northeastern Illinois. For over 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.

SHARED PATH 2030

***Regional
Transportation Plan
for Northeastern Illinois***

CHICAGO AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

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