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CHICAGO AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY 300 W. Adams Street, Chicago, Illinois 60606

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **CATS APPROVES FY2006 CMAQ PROGRAM**

CHICAGO – The Policy Committee of the Chicago Area Transportation Study (CATS) has approved its fiscal year 2006 Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Improvement Program. Seventy-six projects totaling more than \$105.2 million were approved for the northeastern Illinois region, including \$1,440,000 for the 43<sup>rd</sup> Street bicycle-pedestrian bridge over Lake Shore Drive in Chicago.

CMAQ is a federally-funded program of surface transportation improvements designed to improve air quality and mitigate congestion. CMAQ was created in 1991 as part of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA). Continuation of the program with increased funding was authorized by the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21), signed into law in June 1998. The new SAFETEA-LU authorization, passed in August, continues the CMAQ program and expands its scope to include more projects to reduce particulate matter pollution.

The CATS CMAQ Project Selection Committee recommends projects in northeastern Illinois to the CATS Work Program Committee. After considering the recommendations, the Work Program Committee releases a list of proposed projects for public comment. After reviewing the comments, the Work Program Committee recommends a proposed program to the CATS Policy Committee. The Policy Committee considers the proposed program and approves a final program for funding. The Illinois Department of Transportation administers the program.

CMAQ finances transit improvements, commuter parking lots, traffic flow improvements, bicycle and pedestrian facility projects, bicycle parking projects, projects to reduce motor vehicle emissions caused by extreme cold starts, and other projects that result in emissions reductions that can be estimated and are otherwise eligible for CMAQ funds.

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The City of Chicago was awarded CMAQ funds to replace the existing bridge over Lake Shore Drive with a modern one that is accessible to the physically challenged, meets modern safety standards, and improves the connection to the neighborhoods to the west. In 2004, a design competition for the new bridge was held; the winning design may be viewed on the Chicago Architecture Foundation Web site: [www.architecture.org/drivesite/ccad0.html](http://www.architecture.org/drivesite/ccad0.html).

Other approved projects in Chicago and funding they will receive through CMAQ include:

- Chicago Bikes marketing campaign (\$620,000);
- Lakefront trail underpass at Solidarity Drive (\$8,672,000);
- Commuter bike parking (\$700,000);
- Grayland Metra Milwaukee North District commuter station parking (\$408,000);
- Arterial congestion advisory system (\$480,000);
- Walk Chicago pedestrian encouragement program (\$160,000);
- Walk to Transit pedestrian improvements to intersections near CTA rail stations (\$772,000);
- Traffic signal interconnects on the Congress Parkway ITS Smart Corridor (\$2,950,400);
- Traffic signal interconnects on Stony Island Avenue from Midway Plaisance to 95<sup>th</sup> Street (\$380,000);
- Traffic signal interconnects on 87<sup>th</sup> Street from Western Avenue to the Dan Ryan Expressway (\$1,670,000);
- Traffic signal interconnects on 95<sup>th</sup> Street from Western Avenue to Ewing Avenue (\$4,360,000);
- Clark/Division station improvement on the CTA Red Line (\$12 million);
- Monroe/State station improvement on the Red Line (\$2,800,000);
- North/South Lake Shore Drive improvements and marketing of CTA service improvements (year 3) (\$2,560,000);
- Chinatown/Pilsen Summer Shuttle (year 3) (\$64,926);
- Emergency Ride Home pilot program at the University of Illinois, Chicago (\$276,000).

The full list of approved projects for northeastern Illinois can be read at the CATS website, [www.catsmpo.com](http://www.catsmpo.com). Questions or comments about CMAQ should be directed to Ross Patronsky, chief of the CMAQ Program, at 312/793-3474.

CATS is currently seeking project proposals for the FY 2007 CMAQ program. The deadline for submissions is Friday, January 27, 2006. Complete details are available on the CATS website.

The Chicago Area Transportation Study is the Metropolitan Planning Organization for northeastern Illinois, designated by state and local officials to carry out the urban transportation planning process for the region. The area covered by CATS includes Cook, DuPage, Kane, Kendall, Lake, McHenry and Will counties and a portion of Grundy County.

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