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CHICAGO AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY 233 S. Wacker Dr., Suite 800, Chicago, Illinois 60606

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CATS NAMES WINNERS IN ANNUAL KIDS POSTER CONTEST

CHICAGO – From practical to whimsical to unimaginable, schoolchildren in northeastern Illinois responded to the theme, “Kids Know the Way to Go!” in the sixth annual transportation poster contest sponsored by the Chicago Area Transportation Study. A total of 1,712 kindergarten through sixth grade students from 75 schools in the region entered the contest, with 17 being selected for inclusion in the 2007 CATS calendar.

The 17 contest winners will be honored at an awards ceremony at the Chicago Children’s Museum at Navy Pier at 1:30 p.m. on Friday, May 19.

The winners, their grades, schools and teachers are as follows:

- Christian Cruz, kindergarten, St. Emily School, Mt. Prospect, Ms. Guskiewicz.
- Klara Harmata, first grade, The School of the Saints, Chicago, Sister Nita.
- Abigail Brunory, second grade, Saints Peter and Paul School, Cary, Mrs. Kvidera.
- Kristy Chin, third grade, St. Therese School, Chicago, Ms. Wong.
- Dawon Ellis, third grade, Homewood Community Academy, Homewood, Mrs. Thiesin.
- Kendyl Todd, fourth grade, St. Liborius School, Steger, Ms. Sanek.
- Doneisha Warren, fifth grade, Sumner Academy, Chicago, Ms. Domian.
- Marisa Dion, fifth grade, St. Dennis School, Lockport, Mrs. Sheehan.

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- Chon Montano, fifth grade, Mooseheart School, Mooseheart, Ms. O'Donell.
- Daniel Garcia, sixth grade, Pilsen Academy, Chicago, Mr. Winn.
- Martha Sniezko, sixth grade, The School of the Saints, Chicago, Sister Elizabeth.
- Ramiro Bravo, sixth grade, Jane Addams Elementary School, Chicago, Ms. Grannon.
- Corinne Schultz, sixth grade, Frederick School, Grayslake, Mr. Crane.
- Leilani Sampang, sixth grade, St. Damian School, Oak Forest, Mrs. Murphy.
- Jonathan Garcia, sixth grade, Lincoln Avenue School, Dolton, Mrs. Toune.
- Roxayn Povidias, sixth grade, Frederick School, Grayslake, Mr. Crane.
- Shari Lund, sixth grade, Bryan Middle School, Elmhurst, Mrs. Liang.

Students depicted various modes of transportation in their posters, ranging from the practicality of Leilani Sampang's skateboard and bicycle, to the whimsical rocket-powered cars submitted by Daniel Garcia, to "sports cars" from Marisa Dion, in which people drive vehicles that resemble basketballs, volleyballs and baseballs.

In addition to having their artwork featured in the annual CATS calendar and on the CATS website (www.catsmpo.com), the winning contestants will receive various prizes awarded by contest sponsors. They include the John G. Shedd Aquarium, Build-A-Bear Workshop, DuSable Museum of African-American History, DuPage Children's Museum, Brookfield Zoo and The Museum of Science and Industry.

The poster contest is designed to showcase the creative abilities of children, while also fostering discussions about transportation issues between them and their parents and teachers. The awards ceremony is held during National Transportation Week, a time set aside for local communities and the transportation community to join together for greater awareness about the importance of transportation.

The Chicago Area Transportation Study is the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) 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 all of Cook, DuPage, Kane, Kendall, Lake, McHenry and Will counties, plus a portion of Grundy County.