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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**WINNERS NAMED IN FOURTH ANNUAL CATS POSTER CONTEST**

CHICAGO -- The Chicago Area Transportation Study (CATS) has announced the winners of its fourth annual K-6 Poster Contest. Coinciding with the celebration of National Transportation Week (May 16-22), the contest winners will be honored at a ceremony to be held at 2 p.m. on Friday, May 21, at the John G. Shedd Aquarium in Chicago.

This year, 2,300 elementary school students from 95 Chicago and suburban elementary schools submitted entries for the contest, the theme of which was "Moving Right Along." The 15 posters selected as winners will illustrate CATS' 2005 calendar. They will also be featured on the CATS Website: [www.catsmpo.com](http://www.catsmpo.com).

Contest winners, their grade, school name and location, and their teachers' names are as follows:

•Daniel Alfonzo, Grade 5, St. James the Apostle School, Glen Ellyn; Joan Murrow.

•Bianca Briones, Grade 1, Our Lady of Destiny Catholic School, Des Plaines; Janette Guskiewicz.

•Perry Castrovallari, Grade 5, Alfonsus Academy, Chicago; Meltem Aktas.

•Maria DiGiovanni, Grade 2, St. Mary School, Mokena; Amy Zagrakalis.

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•Dominique Franz, Grade 2, Briar Glen Elementary School, Wheaton; Michelle Gower.

•Elizabeth Gonzalez, Grade 5, Mooseheart School, Mooseheart; Susan O'Donell.

•TaQimma Hardin, Grade 4, Lincoln Avenue School, Dolton; Teresa Toune.

•Tykeisha Lewis, Grade 5, John P. Altgeld Elementary School, Chicago; Betty Burden.

•Molly McGinnis, Grade 3, St. Dennis School, Lockport; Jan Sheehan .

•Klaudia Mital, Grade 3, John F. Kennedy Elementary School, Schiller Park; Claire Dougal.

•Matthew Ochalski, Grade 6, School of St. Mary, Lake Forest; Tina Moulton.

•Jordan Peklo, Grade 3, Brook Park Elementary School, LaGrange Park; Lynda Nadkarni.

•Peter Santore, Kindergarten, Divine Providence School, Westchester; Beverly Pavichevich.

•Leah Stevenson, Grade 6, Metcalfe Academy, Chicago; Willie Richard.

•Tomas Villalpando, Grade 4, Hurley Elementary School, Chicago; Danielle Juracka.

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.

"This contest represents a first opportunity for kids to become

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involved with the transportation planning process," said Jock Hardy, CATS communications director. "We hope their curiosity will be piqued enough to keep them involved as they get older."

Sponsors of CATS' 2003 K-6 Poster Contest include Odyssey Fun World, Santa's Village, the John G. Shedd Aquarium, Six Flags Great America, The Rink, Loews Cineplex Entertainment, the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum and United Parcel Service.

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, Lake, McHenry and Will counties, plus a portion of Kendall County.

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