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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**KENDALL COUNTY JOINS THE CHICAGO AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY**

CHICAGO - Kendall County officially became a member of the Chicago Area Transportation Study (CATS), the metropolitan planning organization (MPO) for northeastern Illinois, effective today.

During a meeting of the CATS Policy Committee, which has been the MPO for the region since 1974, resolutions to add Kendall County as a member of the MPO and amend the organization's by-laws to reflect the new addition passed unanimously. CATS, Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) and Kendall County officials view the county becoming part of the regional transportation policy-making entity as a win-win outcome.

Ms. Anne Vickery, vice chairperson of the Kendall County Board and the county's representative on the CATS Policy Committee, stated, "We are very happy to be a part of this very important committee which makes important planning decisions concerning our county and the region. Kendall County is the second fastest growing county in the nation. In the past 4½ years, our population has grown from 54,000 to 95,000 residents. We have gone from combines and tractors to construction and traffic. We are happy to have an opportunity to fully participate in the planning process."

Illinois Secretary of Transportation Tim Martin echoed Ms. Vickery's sentiments: "We welcome Kendall County. Kendall is one of the fastest growing counties. They absolutely need to have a seat at the decision-making table."

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Mr. Don Kopec, acting executive director of CATS, added: "We look forward to having Kendall County at the table. It is absolutely crucial that our regional transportation planning process be thorough, comprehensive, coordinated and inclusive. We are excited to have Kendall County, one of the fastest growing areas in our region, become part of CATS."

CATS is the Metropolitan Planning Organization for northeastern Illinois, designated by state and local officials to administer the urban transportation planning process for the region. The area serviced by CATS includes Cook, DuPage, Kane, Kendall, Lake, McHenry and Will counties.

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