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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

May 11, 2006

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**WALKABLE COMMUNITIES WORKSHOPS SCHEDULED**

CHICAGO – The Chicago Area Transportation Study will sponsor Walkable Communities Workshops in eight communities in northeastern Illinois May 15-22. Workshops will be held in Arlington Heights, Glenview, Northbrook, Northfield, Huntley and Chicago (South Shore, Loop and Milwaukee Avenue).

The workshops will focus on design elements and supporting land uses that facilitate safe walking. Walkable and bikeable communities provide access to public transit services and facilities, maintain access to services and facilities for people with disabilities, and allow access to facilities such as schools, parks and senior centers by people who cannot or choose not to drive.

Dan Burden and Joel Mann of Glatting Jackson/Walkable Communities will present the workshops. Burden is a recognized authority on bicycle and pedestrian facilities and programs, intersection design, traffic flow and calming, and other roadway planning elements. In 2001, *Time* magazine identified Burden as one of the country's 10 most important civic innovators because of his efforts to create better places to live, work and play.

To help develop walkable communities, CATS has scheduled the following community workshops. Persons planning to attend should RSVP through Tom Murtha at [tmurtha@catsmpo.com](mailto:tmurtha@catsmpo.com) or at 312/386-8790. Space is limited.

**Arlington Heights** – Monday, May 15, 1–5 p.m., Mr. Peter's Banquets, 1273 N. Rand Rd., Arlington Heights. Focus Area: Palatine at Windsor.

**Northbrook** – Monday, May 15, 6–10 p.m., Northbrook Village Hall, 1225 Cedar Lane, Northbrook. Focus Area: Shermer Metra to the High School.

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**Chicago Loop** – Tuesday, May 16, 1–5 p.m., J. Ira and Nicki Harris Family Hostel, 24 E. Congress Parkway, Chicago. Focus Area: Congress/State.

**Huntley** – Wednesday, May 17, 11:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Huntley Park District Cosman Cultural Center, 12015 Mill St., Huntley. Focus Area: Downtown, Del Webb Connections.

**Chicago (Milwaukee Ave.)** – Tentative Time and Location TBD.

**Chicago/South Shore** – Thursday, May 18, 1–5 p.m., ABJ Community Services, 1818 E. 71st St., Chicago. Focus Area: 71st/Stony Island.

**Northfield** – Friday, May 19, 8 a.m. – noon, Village Hall, 361 Happ Rd., Northfield. Focus Area: Downtown.

**Glenview** – Friday, May 19, 1-5 p.m., Village Hall, 1225 Waukegan Rd., Glenview. Focus Area: Downtown.

The half-day workshops will give staff and officials information about facilitating safe walking in Chicago area communities. They will include a walk through the workshop area to audit current conditions, an introduction to walkability, and a facilitated session in which recommended changes to improve safety can be drawn on a map. Other area communities that have held similar workshops have been able to implement short- and long-run improvements with federal and local funds.

Several of the workshops will be in the Palatine-Willow Corridor. CATS selected this corridor as a focal point to study improvements to multi-modal transportation. The corridor has a mix of land uses conducive to improving walking and biking, but facilities often are not suitable for such transportation. Concern about pedestrian and bicycle safety, particularly travel to schools and parks, has been expressed through political leadership and community activism. At the same time, the corridor is vital to vehicular transportation, so finding solutions to problems with walkability and bikeability while maintaining vehicular transportation is important.

For more information about the workshops, contact Tom Murtha, [tmurtha@catsmpo.com](mailto:tmurtha@catsmpo.com), 312/386-8790, or visit the CATS website, [www.catsmpo.com](http://www.catsmpo.com).

The Chicago Area Transportation Study is the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) 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, plus a portion of Grundy County.

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