



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

May 3, 2007

Contact: Michelle Valmond  
Jasculca/Terman and Associates for TFIC  
312-573-5491 office  
312-933-7594 cell

**METRO CHICAGO COUNTY ELECTED OFFICIALS URGE  
GOVERNOR TO ACT ON TRANSPORTATION FUNDING**

*Statement from Doug Whitley, President and CEO, Illinois Chamber of Commerce, and Michael T. Carrigan, President, Illinois AFL-CIO, Co-chairs of the Transportation for Illinois Coalition*

Today, the elected leaders of all seven counties in northeastern Illinois and the chair of the region's comprehensive planning agency sent a letter to the Governor asking that he take action this year to address Illinois' transportation funding needs. Attached is a copy of that letter from the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning.

The fact is, transportation in Illinois is in crisis. Chicago's public transit system is breaking down. Our highways are among the nation's most congested. Downstate roads and bridges – the lifeline of rural communities – are literally crumbling. And rail bottlenecks and interstate highway congestion in greater Chicago are adversely affecting the region's commerce.

Many new and expensive programs have been proposed for consideration by the legislature this session. But we must make sure that transportation funding is also a top priority. Illinois' transportation network is deteriorating. If we fail to reinvest in our transportation infrastructure this year we may never get back the business, investment, and jobs – in other words, the tax base on which all other state programs depend.

There is consensus. This is a top priority for metropolitan Chicago and for Illinois. We urge the Governor and the General Assembly to act this year.

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