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May 2, 2007

The Honorable Rod R. Blagojevich
Governor of Illinois
207 State House
Springfield, Illinois 62706

Dear Governor Blagojevich:

Illinois is at a crossroads. Our state's outstanding transportation networks, which have always attracted business to our region for their ability to move goods and people efficiently, are suffering from declining investment in recent years. The economy of our state is closely intertwined with our transportation infrastructure, but as our roads and rail systems become more congested and our transit systems slow from deferred maintenance, our entire economy and quality of life suffer.

Our region is growing, but we are not investing to keep pace with this growth. Investing in our transportation infrastructure is critical to ensuring northeast Illinois will continue to thrive. If we want to keep our communities vibrant places for residents to live and work and attractive places for businesses to locate and expand, then we must make this investment one of our top priorities.

Experts agree that failure to invest in transportation could lead to economic downturn and declining job growth, which would harm our communities and families for generations. We cannot afford to gamble with our future.

As the elected leaders of all seven counties in northeastern Illinois and the chair of the region's comprehensive planning agency, we urge you to take action this year to address transportation funding needs. We are all in complete agreement that this is one of the top priorities for Illinois.

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We hope you will join us in making comprehensive transportation funding a priority for Illinois.

Sincerely,

Gerald Bennett, CMAP Board Chair, Mayor-City of Palos Hills

Suzi Schmidt, Lake County Board Chair

Karen McConnaughay, Kane County Board Chairman

Kenneth D. Koehler, McHenry County Board Chairman

Lawrence M. Walsh, Will County Executive

John Church, Kendall County Board Chairman

Robert J. Schillerstrom, County Board Chairman

Todd Stroger, Cook County Board President

cc: Senate President Jones
Senate Minority Leader Watson
House Speaker Madigan
House Minority Leader Cross