

# Chicago Tribune

## Cook County holds transportation policy open houses

December 1, 2014 | Jon Hilkevitch

Feedback wanted on Cook County long-range transportation plan.

It's back to work and school after a holiday weekend, and there is plenty going on in the world of transportation.

**Cook County** will host open houses starting Tuesday to gather public input on setting priorities to develop a long-range transportation plan for the county that emphasizes the role of expanding economic growth.

The goal is to produce a **Connecting Cook County** plan that links transportation to jobs and economic development, supports more livable communities and addresses infrastructure needs for the next 25 years, officials said.

A key part of the initiative will focus on eliminating "transit deserts" that lack fast, frequent bus and train service to job centers elsewhere in Cook and collar counties, officials said.

About 1 out of every 10 people in Cook County — roughly 438,500 residents — live in transit deserts, according to a study that the Tribune reported on in August. The analysis by the **Center for Neighborhood Technology** found that four of the Chicago area's five big employment areas are in suburbs that are not well-connected to high-quality transit. Those four job centers make up the northwest corridor past **O'Hare International Airport, Lombard, Naperville** and **Oak Brook**.

Cook County officials are asking residents, business owners and community leaders to attend the open houses to review preliminary plans that were introduced over the past nine months and provide feedback and recommendations.

The open houses will be from 4 to 7 p.m. as follows:

- Tuesday, **Franklin Park** Police Department, 9451 W. Belmont, Franklin Park
- Wednesday, **Northbrook** Village Hall, 1225 Cedar Lane, Northbrook
- Thursday, **DePaul University's** Chaddick Institute, 14 E. Jackson Blvd., 16th floor, **Chicago**
- Dec. 9, **Orland Park** Civic Center, 14750 Ravinia Ave., Orland Park.

More information is at [connectingcookcounty.org](http://connectingcookcounty.org)