



COOK COUNTY CONNECTIONS

Message from President Preckwinkle:



Since we began the process of developing our long range transportation plan, known as “Connecting Cook County,” earlier this year, we have seen significant public response through our outreach mechanisms. As we approach the end of the summer, we want to provide an update on what we see as the importance of this project.

It is my firm belief that good economic policy and good transportation policy go hand in hand: Cook County’s economy will not reach its potential unless we invest in our transportation system with that goal in mind.

As a region, we haven’t kept pace with the nation or our peers on the key economic measures of job growth, per capita income and unemployment. While transportation improvements won’t single-handedly reverse these trends, they are a key reason why businesses choose one location over another.

The same holds true for residents who are demanding more transportation choices when deciding where to live. Rapid transit and commuter rail service must meet their travel needs by connecting to important destinations, running frequently and being convenient and dependable enough that the decision to use them is a foregone conclusion.

Cook County is expected to add more than 560,000 new jobs and more than a million people between 2010 and 2040. Ultimately, how and where we invest will play a significant role in determining whether these projections will be realized.

Only with your involvement can we ensure a course of action that benefits Cook County and its residents for decades to come. I continue to encourage everyone – whether you live here, work here or own a business here – to stay connected by visiting our project website and registering for e-mail alerts.

Learn more at www.connectingcookcounty.org.

Making Connections... Hitting the Streets

To ensure input from specific target groups, County staff has made LRTP presentations to councils of government, business organizations and members of the disabled community. Presentations have been as brief as 15 minutes in length and as long as 40 minutes. The real value of this outreach, however, has come from the discussions that follow. Attendees have been quick to direct staff’s attention to their specific policy and capital project concerns. Organizations that have hosted dialogues on the LRTP in recent months include:

- Cook County’s Council of Economic Advisors;
- Metropolitan Planning Council;
- Transport Chicago;
- Chicago Central Area Committee;
- North Shore Council of Mayors;
- AccessChicago; and
- Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce.

If your organization is interested in hosting a briefing session with your members, please sign up at info@connectingcookcounty.org or contact: Tara Fifer @ tara.fifer@cookcountyil.gov.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND HIGHWAYS

CONNECTINGCOOKCOUNTY.ORG

Vision Statement Develops for Connecting Cook County

Key civic, labor, transportation, business, urban planning and economic development experts – along with representatives of suburban councils of governments and the general public – are involved in the collaborative effort to produce Cook County's Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). These transportation partners participate through Advisory or Program Committees, lending their expertise to the planning initiative, while members of the public are also encouraged to provide input via MetroQuest and public meetings. The LRTP, once completed, will be the County's first forward-looking assessment of the County's transportation needs since 1940.

A prime task of [Advisory](#) and [Program Committee members](#) is the development of a vision statement that will guide the County's LRTP planning and decision-making process for years to come. The Committees identified key issues and priorities for the LRTP and articulated the need for a safe, sustainable, and efficient world class transportation system that spurs economic growth and enhances quality of life. Known as Connecting Cook County, the LRTP will be guided by connecting four

principles identified as the "4 Cs": Commerce, Communities, Collaboration, and Capital.

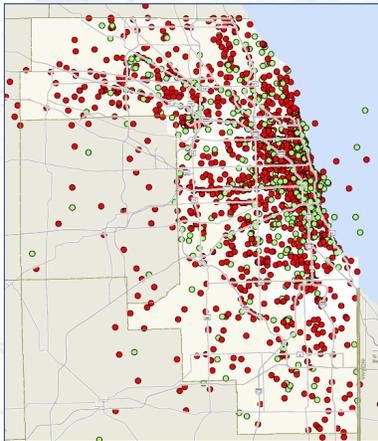
Completion of the draft Vision Statement is under way and adoption expected in mid-September 2014. The Vision Statement will serve as the foundation for a plan that strengthens the County's multimodal transportation networks, including highways, roads, freight corridors, public transit, sidewalks, bike lanes and trails. The Statement will further be designed to have a positive impact on economic growth and quality of life for Cook County's 5.2 million residents.

Following approval of the Vision Statement, the next step in the LRTP process is to develop goals, objectives and performance measures. Partners and the public will again be asked to weigh in on desired results and outcomes, and provide input about objectives to support specific goals or strategies that best support the overall LRTP vision.

Learn more about the [LRTP Vision Statement](#) here.

Metro Quest Phase I Completed

Connecting Cook County, the Cook County Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) provides a unique opportunity to actively engage the public throughout the planning process. Using [MetroQuest](#), an online community engagement platform, we're collecting input from residents, businesses, and all users of the Cook County transportation system via the project website and at kiosks rotating throughout the County over a nine month period, in three separate phases.



During Phase I of the LRTP process, more than 1,600 respondents told us that developing an integrated network with better connections between transportation modes should be a top priority of Connecting Cook County. Specifically, respondents indicated they want to move beyond planning primarily for the automobile and explore opportunities to reduce congestion and enhance public transportation and bicycling. Learn more about LRTP Phase I results and Phase II public involvement plans [here](#).

Accelerated State Funds Allow Cook County to Add More Road, Bridge Projects to Summer Repair Schedule

Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways has unveiled additional projects to be constructed during 2014. The list includes street resurfacing and rehabilitation, and bridge repairs throughout various geographic areas of the County.

"The construction season is now in full swing, and these state funds will allow us to accelerate some of the projects we had previously identified for work at a later time," said John Yonan, Superintendent of the County's Transportation and Highway Department. "While this initial group of projects target suburban locations, we also continue to work with Commissioners and their aldermen in the City of Chicago to identify needs in their wards that we can address with this funding."

The new projects include bridge repairs, pavement rehabilitation, and resurfacing projects and are in addition to the County's larger road and bridge construction program announced in April.

For a list of projects and more on the County's plans, read more [here](#).