



NEWS RELEASE

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DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSPORTATION POLICIES TO BE TESTED AT HANDS-ON WORKSHOPS

Chicago Metropolis 2020 is hosting a series of hands-on workshops giving area residents an opportunity to help plan for future growth of the Chicago region.

Using table-sized maps of the six-county region, participants in the Metropolis Plan workshops will test land use and transportation scenarios to compare how the region might accommodate the projected addition of 1.5 million residents and 800,000 jobs by 2030.

The next workshop will begin at 4 p.m. Wednesday, November 14, 2001 at Caterpillar Inc., 2200 Channahon Road, Joliet. Space is limited, and anyone wishing to attend should contact Chicago Metropolis 2020 at 312-332-2020. Additional workshops in other parts of the region will be scheduled soon.

"Using a computer-based, interactive model of the region, we can predict what happens to the region if we don't change policies that influence housing choices and traffic congestion," said George A. Ranney, Jr., President and CEO of Chicago Metropolis 2020. "We also can explore alternative futures and consider the costs and benefits of a variety of scenarios.

"Questions about housing choices, new highway routes, and rail line extensions create a variety of difficult trade-off choices," Ranney said. "These workshops give participants a new tool to help understand the consequences of development policies and see what changes might be needed."

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The workshops will help answer questions such as: where to zone for increased residential density, what open space should be preserved, which streets should be widened to handle more traffic, and where to maintain industrial capacity and jobs.

Information collected at the workshops will assist with the creation of the Metropolis Plan, a comprehensive plan for the entire region that will be offered as a guide for making public and private investments in support of a unified vision for the region.

About Chicago Metropolis 2020

Chicago Metropolis 2020 promotes innovative solutions to long-term challenges facing the Chicago region. A non-profit organization created in 1999 by The Commercial Club of Chicago, it has a strong base in the business community and includes representatives of labor, government, faith-based groups and other civic organizations.

The web site www.chicagometropolis2020.org offers more information about the history and on-going work of Chicago Metropolis 2020.

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