

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Statement on the Regional Transportation Authority's 2007 Strategic Plan**

*The following is a statement by George A. Ranney, Jr., President and CEO of Chicago Metropolis 2020, in response to today's release of the Regional Transportation Authority's strategic plan:*

“The Chicago region deserves to have a world-class transit system. The RTA’s strategic plan effectively describes what investments will be needed, but it will only succeed if major reforms accompany any increased funding.

“The RTA plan demonstrates the need to repair transit facilities and expand services. But the RTA needs more than money. It needs the authority to coordinate and lead the region’s three service providers – the CTA, Metra and Pace – to perform as an integrated regional system.

“None of the three providers, on their own today, can deliver the kind of service that this region requires. For many, especially suburban commuters, mass transit options are so limited that there is no practical way to ride buses or trains.

“If taxpayers are going to provide more money to the RTA, we must demand that it be spent in a coordinated fashion and that the RTA be held accountable for how it is spent. Today, the RTA’s hands are tied. It passes money along to the three transit agencies, but it is powerless to demand improved operations in exchange for those funds.

“If the General Assembly gives the RTA the ability to direct the flow of funds to make transit service convenient for all travelers in the region, we can have a system that will keep our region competitive in the 21st century. But if the state decides not to entrust the RTA with that power and provides new funding anyway, it will be wasting money on an unaccountable, uncoordinated transit system.

“To create a culture of excellence in transit for the future, RTA’s role as a bureaucratic appendage to the three operating agencies needs to change to a structure where RTA has the accountability and authority to plan, build and integrate a truly regional system.”

### *About Chicago Metropolis 2020*

Chicago Metropolis 2020 is a nonprofit civic organization created in 1999 by The Commercial Club of Chicago to promote long-term planning, better regional cooperation, and smart investment in the Chicago region and its people.

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On the web: <http://www.chicagometropolis2020.org>