



DUPAGE MAYORS AND MANAGERS CONFERENCE

an association of municipalities representing over 1,000,000 people

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Update launched for the DuPage Area Transit Plan

November 2010 marks an important milestone in the *DuPage Area Transit Plan*. DuPage Mayors and Managers Conference (DMMC) and DuPage County will gather public input on the first ever update of the *Plan*. Continuing a tradition of collaborative transit planning that began in 2000, DuPage County and DMMC are working with the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA), Pace, and Metra to incorporate new ideas, trends, and implementation steps into the *Plan*.

Two studies form the technical backbone of the *Plan* update – a review of existing services (including the effectiveness of the 2002 plan) and an assessment of the current market for transit service. The anticipated outcome of the update is a slightly modified plan with an updated implementation schedule that clearly focuses on key priorities for the next 10 years.

In addition, the update will explore answers to questions like:

- How can we improve our transit network, so that more people can use it to get around?
- Which key north-south or east-west corridors should we focus our resources on so that transit service is accessible, marketed, understood, and used?

- What should high-speed service look like and how should it function?
- How can we support our transit network, with features such as bus shelters, park-and-rides, and bicycle infrastructure?

To help answer these questions, public meetings will be held at two major milestones in the *DuPage Area Transit Plan* update process. The meetings are intended to provide a forum through which the general public and all stakeholders can obtain project information and provide public input. The first milestone is in November, to gather input on the plan. The second is in early 2011, to give feedback on the proposed recommendations for updating the *Plan*.

Residents, commuters, employers, and other people who care about DuPage transit are invited to the November meetings. The meetings will use an Open House format, with an overview of the current *Plan*, and opportunities to offer ideas about priorities and changes. All are welcome to drop in, stay for a few minutes, or stay for a while.

- Monday, November 8, 6:00-8:00 p.m., Student Resource Center, Room 1544, College of DuPage, 425 Fawell Blvd., Glen Ellyn
- Wednesday, November 10, 2:00-4:00 p.m., Upper Level (Near Carson Pirie Scott), Stratford Square Mall, 152 Stratford Square, Bloomingdale

A transit survey will also be issued to help gather input from those who cannot attend the meeting. More information about the update process is available at www.dupagetransitplan.com.

Background on the DuPage Area Transit Plan:

The *DuPage Area Transit Plan* was first published in 2002 to solve problems of congestion and mobility in DuPage through the year 2020. It was the outcome of a two-year planning process that involved the extensive participation of local officials, members of the business community, and residents. The *Plan* presented an entirely new vision for an integrated transit system to serve the mobility needs of residents, employees and businesses through the year 2020 – local bus service linked to major bus and rail lines, new north-south bus service, and high speed bus service across the county.

The DuPage County Board and DMMC jointly adopted the *Plan* and, since 2002, have been working together to implement the recommendations.

In 2006, the first plan project was implemented – the COD Connector (Pace 714), a critical north-south bus route in West Central DuPage linking Wheaton and Naperville with direct service to the College of DuPage (one of the nation's largest community

colleges). Local circulators are under study, planned, or nearing implementation in over a dozen DuPage communities including Addison, Hanover Park, Lombard, Naperville, Greater Oak Brook Area, and St. Charles. RTA, Pace, and DuPage County have begun studies of how high-speed service could improve mobility in DuPage, especially to and between destinations such as major employment centers and O'Hare International Airport.

The original plan recommended three "layers" of transit service, with a heavy emphasis on expanding bus service and enhancing the links between bus and rail service:

- Circulators: local bus services that provide trips within a community or transfer opportunities to other services (major bus routes or Metra trains)
- Connectors: bus services that run north-south or east-west on major arterial streets
- Bus Rapid Transit: high-speed bus services between major employment centers like Naperville, Oak Brook, O'Hare, and Schaumburg

Regional efforts such as RTA's Cook DuPage Corridor Study, the IDOT Elgin-O'Hare West Bypass project, and the CMAP Go To 2040 comprehensive regional plan present unique opportunities to further the goals of the *DuPage Area Transit Plan*.

For more information, visit www.dupagetransitplan.com or call (630) 571-0480.

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