What is the Problem?
Transportation congestion is a growing problem and has been a fact of life for residents of the Chicago metropolitan area for decades. Everyone living, working or visiting here has experienced delays and even gridlock while trying to get around the Cook DuPage Corridor, especially during rush-hour periods.

Each year, more people move into the Chicago region. Many new and longer term residents now choose to live or work - or both - in the suburbs. Intersuburban and reverse commuting has increased exponentially in the past decades, yet our highway and public transportation systems have changed little over the same time period. The result is that too many people must rely on congested roadways to get from home to work, as well as to meet their other personal travel needs. Our mobility will only get worse if we do not address our transportation problems now.

Finding a Solution
The good news is that if we work together to develop an integrated set of mobility solutions, we can turn things around. With the input of people who work and live in the Cook DuPage Corridor, we can develop real solutions to improve your travel now and in the future.

The Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) in cooperation with the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) is bringing together state, regional and local transportation agencies, elected officials, and business and community leaders to think and act collectively through the Cook DuPage Corridor planning study. We will creatively explore and compare a wide range of options to improve mobility in this critical part of the region. This will include taking a close look at project proposals already on the books and working together to develop new solutions. Our goal is to find and reach consensus on the most effective and sustainable solutions that can meet the dynamic, long-term mobility needs of the Corridor.

Instead of looking at just one type of transportation solution, the Cook DuPage Corridor Study will evaluate different combinations of highway and transit improvements to deal with the identified transportation needs. Addressing the needs will likely require a complex and multimodal package of improvements including new highway and transit projects, enhanced services and operational improvements. Using quantitative and qualitative information, each alternative will be evaluated to determine its: ability to improve mobility and access; social, economic, and environmental effects; cost and cost-effectiveness; and likely financing sources.

The Cook DuPage Corridor mobility problems are very complex, and the solutions are likely to be complex also. The Cook DuPage Corridor Study will provide decision makers with more complete knowledge so that well-informed and broadly supported transportation decisions for the Corridor can be made.
The Cook DuPage Corridor mobility problems are very complex, and the solutions are likely to be complex also.

A significant increase in population and jobs has occurred in suburban areas of Northeastern Illinois over the past several decades. Major regional employment centers have emerged in and around the Cook DuPage Corridor, offering new work locations for both city and suburban residents. As a result, both DuPage County and Cook County are currently net importers of workers. Corridor employment growth is anticipated to far outpace population change in the next 30 years.

Suburban growth in population and jobs has brought about a significant change in travel patterns. While the traditional commute from the suburbs to Chicago remains strong, there has been a large increase in intersuburban and reverse commute travel. The existing Corridor transportation system was established to serve the traditional commute to downtown Chicago. The system does not provide a sufficient level of service and/or range of options to address the high growth travel patterns to Corridor employment centers. This deficiency is most acute for reverse and intersuburban travel markets where transit options are limited or non-existent.
A MESSAGE FROM
the RTA Executive Director

Over the past several months, the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) has established a Policy Committee, a Technical Committee and a Citizen Advisory Committee for the Cook DuPage Corridor to provide strong and balanced leadership, technical expertise, and insight into the diverse perspectives represented within the Corridor. The committees provide essential talent and valuable perspective to the RTA's corridor planning process. In four short months, the committees have laid important groundwork toward creating a forward-thinking, unified blueprint to improve mobility for the people living, working and doing business in the Cook DuPage Corridor.

Public input from members of the community that make up the fabric of the Corridor is the cornerstone of a successful planning process that will be adopted by the RTA and embraced by elected officials throughout the region. Your contribution will shape and energize the planning process.

This is the first of a series of newsletters that we hope provides meaningful information and inspires you to join us in this unique effort. If you have questions or comments, I encourage you to visit the website (www.cook-dupagecorridor.com), join the mailing list, and attend one of the three public "scoping" meetings the week of June 26th.

The RTA is committed to honesty and integrity throughout the planning process. I am excited to work with you on this important corridor study. Together, we can improve mobility in the Cook DuPage Corridor and the Chicago metro area.

Sincerely,

Stephen E. Schlickman
Executive Director
Three public meetings are scheduled for June 2006. The meetings will cover the same material, but are being held at different locations to give you a greater opportunity to attend:

**Date:** Tuesday, June 27, 2006  
**Time:** 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm  
**Place:** DuPage County Center  
Jack T. Knuepfer Administration Building  
421 North County Farm Road  
Room 3500-B  
Wheaton, IL 60187  
Ph: 630-407-6500

**Date:** Wednesday, June 28, 2006  
**Time:** 4:00 pm – 8:00 pm  
**Place:** Cicero Town Hall  
4937 West 25th Street  
Cicero, IL 60804  
Ph: 708-656-3600

**Date:** Thursday, June 29, 2006  
**Time:** 4:00 pm – 8:00 pm  
**Place:** Good Samaritan Hospital  
Wellness Center  
3551 Highland Avenue  
Ph: 630-275-2700

A brief presentation will be provided June 27 at 7:00 pm, and June 28 and June 29 at 4:30 pm and 7:00 pm. The meetings will be Open House format. View displays and provide input at your own pace!

For directions by transit, call: 836-7000 (no area code needed).

At the meeting you will have the opportunity to:
- View informational displays, ask questions and provide your input on key elements of the Cook DuPage Corridor Study including the Problem Statement, Purpose and Need, Goals and Objective
- Help determine what potential solutions we should evaluate, by reviewing and improving our “conceptual” Options
- Understand the process and key phases of development for the study
- Tell us how you think we can improve mobility and transportation services in the Corridor

If you can’t make it to the meeting, there are other ways to speak up and be heard!
- Visit the website (www.cook-dupagecorridor.com) to learn more about the study, view maps and download reports, presentations and meeting summaries
- Invite the RTA to speak at your neighborhood or community association meeting
- Keep your eyes and ears open for periodic announcements and information in your local newspapers
- Add your name to the study mailing list
- Read the Cook DuPage Corridor newsletters...think about the issues...and give us your comments and suggestions. Share the newsletter with your friends.
- Write a letter, call or send us an email to let us know your thoughts, comments or ideas

Your voice is an important part of our shared future.