



**Regional
Transportation
Authority**

For immediate release

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RTA COMMENDS U.S. HOUSE TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE'S BLUEPRINT

STATEMENT FROM: STEVE SCHLICKMAN, RTA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) is very pleased that the bipartisan leadership of the U.S. House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, led by Chairman James Oberstar (D-MN), wants to ensure that federal funding addresses critical maintenance needs of the nation's largest and oldest rail systems such as ours in northeastern Illinois.

The timing couldn't be better for this blueprint to be released as our region moves forward with federal economic stimulus projects and anticipates state capital funding to start catching up on a host of backlogged maintenance work. Today's announcement is another milestone for transit investment reform that will improve our region. It serves as further validation of the Federal Transit Administration report last month affirming the needs to invest in aging infrastructures. The report was commissioned by Dick Durbin, Assistant Senate Majority Leader from Illinois.

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About the RTA: The RTA provides financial oversight, funding and regional planning for the three public transit operators in northeastern Illinois: The Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) bus and train, Metra commuter rail and Pace suburban bus and paratransit. For more information, visit www.rtachicago.com and www.MovingBeyondCongestion.org.