



Regional Transportation Authority

For immediate release

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Statement on the nomination of Cong. Ray LaHood as Secretary of Department of Transportation

“The RTA is very excited and pleased with President-elect Barack Obama’s recent nomination of Congressman Ray LaHood as Secretary of the Department of Transportation. We are especially pleased because we know that Cong. LaHood understands Illinois’ needs.

As a former member of the House Transportation & Infrastructure and Appropriations Committees, Cong. LaHood understands transportation and specifically, the need to invest in our nation’s transit systems.

President-elect Obama has already stated his commitment to implementing an economic stimulus plan that would support infrastructure projects and we are confident that Cong. LaHood will help President-Elect Obama advance this mission.

There are currently hundreds of millions of ready-to-go transit projects in northeastern Illinois. Investments into projects like these serve national goals by creating jobs, stimulating economic development increasing mobility, improving air quality, and reducing our dependence on foreign oil.

We look forward to working with Cong. LaHood on the economic recovery legislation, as well as on the authorization of federal transportation programs, which are scheduled to expire in 2009.

RTA Chairman Jim Reilly worked in the Illinois legislature with Cong. LaHood. He described him as a bi-partisan consensus builder and straight shooter – important attributes that are needed now more than ever to advance the public transit agenda.”

Steve Schlickman, executive director, Regional Transportation Authority

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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.