April 25, 2007

Dear Stakeholder,

The State of Illinois is embarking on a new initiative to approach transit planning and coordination for rural and small-urbanized Downstate areas from a regional perspective. In the fall of 2006, the Illinois Department of Transportation-Division of Public and Intermodal Transportation defined 11 regional areas where planning for comprehensive and coordinated transit-related services, as well as project prioritization within the region would occur in the context of input provided through a Regional Transportation Committee (RTC).

This initiative will most affect rural operators receiving federal funds under certain programs, as they must now show that their projects are part of a coordinated plan, per the reauthorization of transportation funding under SAFETEA-LU.

For the past year, the implementation of this mandate has included the collaborative efforts of the IDOT-DPIT, the Illinois Institute for Rural Affair's Rural Transit Assistance Center (RTAC) and the Illinois Association of Regional Planning Councils (ILARC). We encourage your attendance at this meeting as we believe that your input as a stakeholder in this process will help to ensure that residents in all counties across the state have access to coordinated, efficient and affordable transit services.

For more information on the details of the implementation process, how the regions were defined or any additional information concerning transit-plan development in regards to the federal mandate, please contact me at (312) 793-3532, Erica.Interrante@illinois.gov, or see the following web link at http://www.dot.il.gov/dpit/index.html (click on HSTP: Program Overview).

Sincerely,

Dave Spacek Bureau Chief Erica Interrante, Program Manager Please look for your county to determine what region you are in. The same materials will be covered in both afternoon and evening meetings.

REGION 1

(Carroll, JoDaviess, Stephenson, Winnebago, Boone)

Date: Monday, May 14, 2007

Time: 1:30-4:00pm and 6:30-8:00pm **Place:** Stephenson County Senior Center

121 N. Harlem Ave.

Freeport, IL

REGION 2

(Rock Island, Mercer, Henry, Whiteside)

Date: Wednesday, May 16, 2007 **Time:** 1:30-4:00pm and 6:30-8:00pm **Place:** Metrolink East Pointe location

> 1201 14th Avenue East Moline, IL 61244

REGION 3

(Dekalb, Ogle, Lee, Bureau, Putnam, LaSalle)

Date: Tuesday, May 15, 2007

Time: 1:30-4:00pm and 6:30-8:00pm **Place:** Kishwaukee Community College

21193 Malta Rd.

Malta, IL

Room A225-Tiered Conference Room (Parking off of Malta Rd.; park in "A

Parking" for Conference Center

REGION 4

(Henderson, Warren, Hancock, McDonough, Schuyler, Adams, Brown and Pike)

Date: Wednesday, May 2, 2007

Time: 1:30-4:00pm and 6:30-8:00pm

Place: Quincy Senior and Family Resource Center

639 York Quincy, IL

REGION 5

(Knox, Fulton, Stark, Peoria, Marshall, Woodford, Tazewell)

Date: Tuesday, May 22, 2007

Time: 1:30-4:00pm and 6:30-8:00pm **Place:** Central Illinois Area on Aging

700 Hamilton Blvd.

Peoria, IL

Parking is available behind the building, or use church

parking lot across the street

REGION 6

(Grundy, Kankakee, Livingston, McLean, Ford, Iroquois)

Date: Wednesday, May 30, 2007 **Time:** 1:30-4:00pm and 6:30-8:00pm **Place:** Meadows Campus Center

24218 Gundy Drive

Chenoa, IL

(Off I-55, exit at US-24; please call if you have questions about

directions)

REGION 7

(Mason, Cass, Scott, Morgan, Menard, Sangamon, Logan, Christian)

Date: Wednesday, May 23, 2007 **Time:** 1:30-4:00pm and 6:30-8:00pm

Place: Jacksonville Area Chamber of Commerce

155 W. Morton Ave. Jacksonville, IL

(located in Community Park, right off of Morton Ave.)

REGION 8

(Dewitt, Piatt, Macon, Shelby, Moultrie, Champaign, Vermillion, Douglas, Edgar, Coles, Cumberland, Clark)

Date: Thursday, May 31, 2007

Time: 2:30-4:30pm and 6:30-8:00pm

Place: Piatt County Mental Health Center ("The Center")

1921 North Market Street (Rte. 105)

Monticello, IL

REGION 9

(Calhoun, Greene, Jersey, Macoupin, Montgomery, Fayette, Marion, Clinton, Bond, Madison)

Date: Tuesday, June 5, 2007

Time: 1:30-4:00pm and 6:30-8:00pm

Place: Montgomery County Senior Center

Route 127

Taylor Springs, IL (less than 1 mile south of Hillsboro)

REGION 10

(Effingham, Jasper, Crawford, Clay, Richland, Lawrence, Wayne, Edwards, Wabash, Hamilton, White, Saline, Gallatin, Pope, Hardin)

Date: Wednesday, June 6, 2007 **Time:** 1:30-4:00pm and 6:30-8:00pm

Place: Illinois Employment Training Center ("one stop" site)

303 S. Commercial St. in the Parker Plaza

Harrisburg, IL

(off of I-57 S, 30 minutes east of Marion, IL and Williamson

county)

REGION 11

(St. Clair, Monroe, Randolph, Washington, Jefferson, Perry, Franklin, Jackson, Williamson, Union, Johnson, Alexander, Pulaski, Massac)

Date: Thursday, June 7, 2007

Time: 2:00-4:00pm and 6:30-8:00pm **Place:** Shawnee Community College

8364 College Rd.

Ullin, IL

Meeting will be held in the River Room in the Main Building, lot parking

is available

Looking forward to seeing you at a meeting!