Northeastern Illinois PUBLIC TRANSIT Task Force

September 27, 2013

John Gates, Jr.
Chairman of the Board/CEO, RTA
410 N Michigan Avenue,
Suite 333
Chicago, IL 60611
jgates@portaeco.com

Dear Mr. Gates:

In accordance with Executive Order 13-06, issued by Governor Quinn on August 15, 2013, it is our objective to provide meaningful recommendations to strengthen and revitalize the Northeastern Illinois public transit system. As we work toward this goal, we are planning a Finance Working Group Meeting on October 2, 2013. We would like to extend a formal invitation to you, requesting that you provide public testimony, at the meeting scheduled for:

October 2, 2013
9:30am to 11:30am
Michael A. Bilandic Building
160 North LaSalle Street
Chicago, Illinois 60601

We request that your testimony answer the following questions:

1. What is your view on how the region currently funds transit in terms of both process and overall funding levels?
    a. Please define in detail all of your available funding resources (including local revenue sources) for both operating and capital budget.
    b. Do the available funding sources adequately fund your current and projected capital and operating needs? If not, please describe your current and projected shortfall.
    c. Assuming no changes in current funding levels what steps will you take to address projected deficits in operating and capital budgets?
    d. Do you think that the allocation formula appropriately apportions available funds? What changes, if any would you make to the existing formula and why?

CO CHAIRS
Ann L. Schneider
George Ranney Jr.

APPOINTEES
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Patrick Fitzgerald
Robert W. Guy
Adrienne M. Holloway
Sylvia Jenkins
Nick Palmer
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e. Assuming no increase in the amount funding coming from the State, please discuss any changes in the current statute that in your opinion, could positively impact funding resources available to the region.

2. The current allocation format is very complicated and difficult for the general public to understand, how would you go about simplifying it?
3. If you had a blank slate, how would you allocate funds and why? What prevents that from happening now? What issues would that raise and how would you address them?

We plan to utilize your testimony to help make recommendations that will enhance this vital public service that millions of Illinoisans use each day. Please submit a transcript of your public testimony by close of business **Tuesday, October 1, 2013**.

Our work here is critical, as Illinois strives to improve and strengthen connections among all transportation modes – including transit – to provide Illinois and the nation with a seamless transportation system that is accessible, safe, respects the environment, advances quality of life and empowers our economy.

Thank you for your commitment to the Northeastern Illinois Transit System.

Sincerely,

Carole L. Brown
Chairperson of the Finance Working Group
Northeastern Illinois Public Transit Task Force

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