

2004 Legislative Priorities



**What you need to know
about Illinois transportation
legislation.**



**Spring Legislative
Issues Forum II**

April 17, 2004



Forum Agenda

Saturday, April 17th, 2004

- 9:00-9:30** **Registration Opens**
Visit table and organizational displays -- Learn more about environmentally friendly and transportation-related organizations (see back page for information).
- 9:30-9:45** **Welcome**
Introduction to forum events and activities
- 9:50-10:35** **Workshop Session I**
(see next page for workshop selections)
- 10:35-11:00** **Break**
Visit table and organizational displays
- 11:00-11:45** **Workshop Session II**
(see next page for workshop selections)
- 11:50-12:30** **Closing Address**
- Special Message from Renee Ferguson, NBC Unit 5 Investigative Reporter
 - *How does it all fit together?* & *The Wall of Choice and Change* with Jacky Grimshaw, Vice-President for Policy, Transportation and Community Development, CNT

Speaker Bio:



Renee Ferguson, Unit 5 Investigative Reporter

Ms. Ferguson is an award-winning reporter with more than 30 years of journalism experience. Over the years, her stories have exposed inequities and injustices in the region and have proven to be a catalyst for reform in many public and private agencies. Recently her story about the poor conditions of Metra's South Electric Line resulted in the removal of turnstiles at Metra stations.

She has been with Chicago NBC5 since March 1987. She received her Bachelors Degree in Journalism from Indiana University in Bloomington.

Workshop Information

Information: Transportation and Environmental Legislation:

“Location Matters” in Illinois: The Location Efficiency bill, currently in the Illinois General Assembly, will create economic development incentives for businesses that locate in areas that maximize current infrastructure and are near affordable housing or public transportation. Learn more about this legislation and how it can potentially encourage economic development in low-income neighborhoods by creating location efficiency in Illinois. *Presenter: Amanda Eichelkraut, Citizen Action/Illinois and the Campaign to Build Illinois Transit, Room 9101.*

Building Walkable Communities in Illinois: This workshop will cover the nuts and bolts of context sensitive design (CSD) -- the policy that encourages roadbuilding with all users in mind and with sensitivity to the surrounding communities. The workshop will also feature a discussion of the importance of pedestrian improvements to transit service, particularly in suburban communities. This is a particularly timely issue because Illinois passed legislation in 2003 that requires Illinois Department of Transportation to follow CSD guidelines for roadway construction. *Presenters: Mark Ashby, Pace Bus and John LaPlante, TYLin-Bascor, Room 9102.*

Application: Tools and Strategies for Organizing:

LEInfo and Web-based Advocacy Tools: In the past year the advocacy and organizing world saw the rapid introduction of a variety of web-based tools to advance both political and advocacy agendas. Come learn more about available online tools to improve your advocacy efforts. This workshop will demonstrate ways to use LEInfo, the legislative tool used to track Illinois legislation. *Presenters: Ben Helphand, LEInfo Coordinator and Paul Smith, CNT Webmaster/Systems, Room 9105.*

Organizing 101: Grassroots organizing is a powerful tool for policy change. In this workshop, we will discuss basic organizing strategies and message development. Examples from a local pedestrian group will highlight strategies for organizing around transportation issues. This workshop will feature active discussion and hands-on activities that will increase participants' organizing capacity and improve efforts to implement and advocate for transportation-friendly legislation. *Presenters: Karen Hobbs, Director, Research and Development Division, CNT and Christy Prael, Logan Square Walks, Room 9104.*

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"Location Matters" in Illinois

HB4442: *Investing Public Funds for the Greatest Public Benefit*

HB 4442 uses easily accessible data to enable the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) to make the most efficient use of limited state funds while assisting businesses with progressive and low-cost methods to recruit and retain employees.

HB4442 would:

- apply limited state economic development funds wisely;
- reduce commute time resulting in less traffic congestion and air pollution;
- promote the availability of workforce housing near jobs; and
- help businesses build a stable workforce.

Illinois needs this bill because:

- Illinois ranks 5th in the nation in the longest commute times; and
- on average, Americans spend 62 hours per year in rush hour traffic and waste nine billion gallons of gas in congestion.

HB 4442 would provide employers with an opportunity to receive priority status for state economic development assistance from DCEO. Applicants would provide DCEO with information about the business location including data on affordable housing, accessible and convenient public transit, and existing infrastructure in the area. If DCEO determines the employer is in a "location efficient" site, the employer receives priority status.

If DCEO determines the employer is not in a location efficient site, the employer could give DCEO a plan to increase the housing and/or transportation options of its employees. Such plans might include an employer-assisted housing plan, shuttle services, pre-tax transit cards, or carpooling assistance. Many Illinois employers have already implemented these low cost plans to improve their recruitment and retention efforts.

Employers opting not to follow either method can still compete for DCEO funding.

"The 'jobs-housing imbalance' has become a regional crisis, with low-income households unable to find affordable housing near newer job centers and often unable to find jobs near existing moderately priced housing. Employers report difficulty finding and retaining workers willing to make arduous commutes."
Changing Direction, 15

Learn and Discuss:

"Location Matters" in Illinois

Room 9101

Session I: 9:50-10:35 AM

Session II: 11:00-11:45 AM

*Presenter: Amanda Eichelkraut,
Citizen Action/Illinois and the
Campaign to Build Illinois Transit*

"Location Matters" in Illinois: The Location Efficiency bill, currently in the Illinois General Assembly, will create economic development incentives for businesses that locate in areas that maximize current infrastructure and are near affordable housing or public transportation. Learn more about this legislation and how it can potentially encourage economic development in low-income neighborhoods by creating location efficiency in Illinois.

For more info about Location Efficiency legislation, contact:
Amanda Eichelkraut
Citizen Action Illinois
(312) 427-2114 x8
amanda@citizenaction-il.org

HB 4442 Location Matters

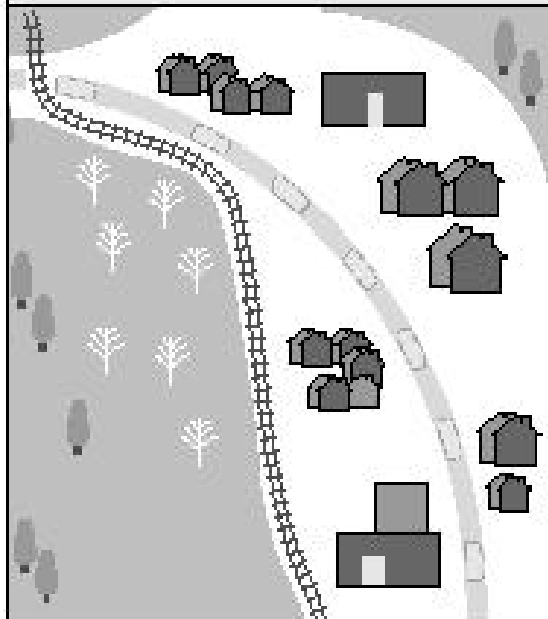
INVESTING PUBLIC FUNDS FOR THE GREATEST PUBLIC BENEFIT

“Location Efficient”

means a project is located at a site with the following characteristics: maximizes the use of existing investments in infrastructure, minimizes additional government expenditures on new publicly financed transportation or other infrastructure, and offers housing affordable to the workforce of the applicant.

IF

If a site is location efficient, the company receives a preference for state economic development funds.



OR

A company can still receive a funding preference for a site that is not location efficient by submitting an effective Housing and/or Transportation Plan for the company's employees.

Housing and/or Transportation Plan might include:

- Shuttle Service
- Employee Carpooling Program
- Discounted Transit Incentives
- Employer Assisted Housing
- Location Efficient Mortgages
- Vanpooling
- Flextime
- Promote Walking/Biking
- Car Sharing
- Mortgage Pools for Local Housing
- Loans for First Time Homeowners

OR

The employer may elect to do none of the above and still compete for funds.

Context Sensitive Design and Walkable Communities



Context Sensitive Design (CSD), also known as Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS), requires state road construction policies and practices to respect the existing built and

natural environment and to foster travel choice in an individual corridor. CSD requires the state to engage in a collaborative planning process that includes local officials, local and regional economic and cultural organizations, and the general public.

Context Sensitive Design in Illinois

House Bill 3061, Context Sensitive Design, passed in the spring of 2003 and was signed by the governor. The bill was modeled on guidelines from Scenic America. The Illinois Department of Transportation completed its report on design guidelines to be in conformance with CSS/CSD. The report is currently being reviewed by the Governor and the General Assembly and will be available to the public shortly. In the meantime, visit their website to learn more about CSS in Illinois at www.dot.state.il.us/css/home.html.

Safe Routes to School and Walkable Communities

There has been an ongoing effort to pass Safe Routes to School legislation to re-direct some federal safety money to improving the bike and pedestrian environments around schools. There are multiple Safe Routes to School bills sponsored this session from both sides of the aisle. Once Congress passes a federal reauthorization bill, the likely source of Safe Routes to School funds will become more clear.

"The transportation projects that should facilitate trips to schools, daycare, the cleaners, health facilities, the friend who lives a half mile away or a recreation site are often very different from the projects designed for the work commute."
Changing Direction, p. 9

Learn and Discuss: **Building Walkable Communities in Illinois**

Rm 9102

Session I: 9:50-10:35 AM

Session II: 11:00-11:45 AM

Presenters: Mark Ashby, Pace Bus and John LaPlante, TYLin-Bascor

This workshop will cover the nuts and bolts of context sensitive design (CSD) -- the policy that encourages roadbuilding with all users in mind and with sensitivity to the surrounding communities. The workshop will also feature a discussion of the importance of pedestrian improvements to transit service, particularly in suburban communities. This is a particularly timely issue because Illinois passed legislation in 2003 that requires Illinois Department of Transportation to follow CSD guidelines for roadway construction.

For more information about pedestrian and bicyclist issues, visit:

Pedestrian and Biking Info Center
www.bikepedinfo.org

Transportation Alternatives, NYC
www.transalt.org

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
www.rwjf.org/index.jsp

Context Sensitive Design and Walkable Communities

During 2000 and 2001,

13.5%

of all traffic deaths in Illinois were pedestrians. During that time

377

Illinois pedestrians died.

307

of those pedestrians were from northeastern Illinois.

\$4,461,693,893.00

is the amount of total federal surface transportation funds spent in Illinois (1998-2001). Only

1.0%

of total surface transportation funds were spent on pedestrian/bicycle facilities and safety. This averages to

\$0.86

per person in Illinois on pedestrian/bicycle facilities and safety.

In northeastern Illinois that amount is even lower at

\$0.64.*



Let's spend more than \$0.86 per person! We must increase funding and attention to pedestrian and bicycle facilities and safety.

Context Sensitive Design and Safe Routes to School are two policies that are critical to making our communities more walkable and accessible to pedestrians young and old.

Talk to your elected official, urge her or him to use the principles of context sensitive design locally and support the passage of Illinois Safe Routes to School legislation.



An example of CSD: The same street before....



...and after a bike lane was added.

*Information and data on pedestrians from Mean Streets 2002, Surface Transportation Policy Project, 2002.

What You Can Do: Action and Application

There are many ways for local, state, and national decision-makers to hear your voice. During these uncertain times, when Congress is reformulating our federal transportation legislation and local, regional, and state officials are determining how money is spent in Illinois, it is critical to communicate your priorities to elected officials.

“Public sentiment is everything. With public sentiment, nothing can fail; without it nothing can succeed. Consequently, he who moulds public sentiment goes deeper than he who enacts statutes or pronounces decisions. He makes statutes and decisions possible or impossible to be executed.” - Abraham Lincoln

Contact your elected officials:

The more personal the better!

- Elected officials respond well to personal messages from their constituents. While postcard, letter-writing campaigns, and emails are essential means of communication, a personal visit with your elected official is the most effective means of expressing your concerns.

Make an appointment to meet with your elected official today!

- **You are an expert and a constituent.** You know what your community needs. Use the information in this booklet or in *Changing Direction: Transportation Choices for 2030* to form talking points that you can use when speaking with your elected officials about your priorities.
- **Invite a friend or neighbor** to visit your elected official with you.
- **Research.** Find out what your particular elected official’s position has been on the issue you are going to discuss.
- **Tell your elected official that you are a constituent.** Elected officials are especially responsive during meetings if they know they are talking to a constituent.
- **Tell him or her why change needs to occur.** Be sure to make it personal. Make the connection between the issues and community the elected official represents.
- **Finally—ask for a commitment from the elected official.** You want change and action -- you must ask for it!*

Good luck in your advocacy endeavors! If you need more information or would like more copies of *Changing Direction: Transportation Choices for 2030*, call (773) 278-4800 x2030 or email ctaqc@cnt.org. Copies are also available on the web at www.cnt.org.

*Adapted from Wellstone Action! Materials

What You Can Do: Tools and Web Information

LEGInfo.org provides up-to-date information on Illinois legislation. This is just one example of the many available web resources that can improve your access to legislative information.

Federal transportation legislation info:

www.transact.org

www.enhancements.org

<http://thomas.loc.gov>



Illinois elected officials: www.legis.state.il.us/

Cook County elected officials: www.cookctyclerk.com/directory.html

DuPage County: www.co.dupage.il.us/

Kane County: www.co.kane.il.us/

Lake County: www.co.lake.il.us/

McHenry County: www.co.mchenry.il.us/

Will County: www.willcountyllinois.com/

Workshops: Tools and Strategies for Organizing

LEGInfo and Web-based Advocacy Tools

Room 9105

Session I: 9:50-10:35 AM

Session II: 11:00-11:45 AM

Presenters: Ben Helphand, LEGInfo Coordinator and Paul Smith, CNT Webmaster/Systems

In the past year the advocacy and organizing world saw the rapid introduction of a variety of web-based tools that advance both political and advocacy agendas. Come learn more about online tools available for your advocacy efforts and how you can use LEGInfo, the legislative tool used for tracking Illinois legislation.

Organizing 101

Room 9104

Session I: 9:50-10:35 AM

Session II: 11:00-11:45 AM

Presenters: Karen Hobbs, CNT and Christy Prah, Logan Square Walks.

Grassroots organizing is an effective tool for policy change. This workshop will discuss basic organizing strategies and message development. Examples from a local pedestrian group will highlight strategies for organizing around transportation issues. This workshop will feature active discussion and hands-on activities for participants to increase organizing capacity and improve the effort to implement and advocate for transportation-friendly legislation.

Organizational Displays

I-GO Car-Sharing

www.i-go-cars.com
Richard Kosmacher
2125 W. North Avenue
Chicago, IL 60647
P: (773) 278-4446 x 227
F: (773) 278-3840
info@i-go-cars.org

GrayLine

<http://community-2.webtv.net/GLRTS/GRAYLINECONVERSION/>
Mike Payne
grlts@webtv.net

Illinois Department of Transportation - Context Sensitive Solutions

<http://www.dot.state.il.us/css/home.html>
Michael Moss, Policy Advisor to the Secretary, IDOT
310 S. Michigan Avenue,
Suite 1600
Chicago, IL 60604
P: (312) 793-2250

Congress for New Urbanism CNU XII, Chicago, IL June 24-26

www.cnu.org
The Marquette Building
140 S. Dearborn Avenue, Suite 310
Chicago, IL 60603
P: (312) 551-7300
F: (312) 346-3323
cnuinfo@cnu.org

Freight and Economic Development

David Chandler
Center for Neighborhood Technology
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F: (773) 278-3840
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Community Technology Centers' Network

www.ctcnet.org
Chicago Office
c/o Charles A. Hayes FIC
4849 S. Wabash Avenue
Chicago, IL 60615

Clean Air Counts

www.cleanaircounts.org
Eleanor Mayer
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Logan Square Walks

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To join Logal Square listserve, go to:
www.groups.yahoo.com/group/LoganSquareWalks/