



July 12, 2002

Dear Editor:

I am writing to encourage the residents of Oak Park to participate in an important transportation planning process now underway for the metropolitan area. The Chicago Area Transportation Study (CATS) is working to develop a regional transportation plan (RTP) to guide the region's transportation investments through the year 2030, and the public process this involves offers an excellent opportunity for we Oak Parkers to make sure our voices, ideas and concerns are heard.

CATS "Shared Path" 2030 RTP will be built upon needs demonstrated for rail, bus, bicycle, pedestrian and highway transportation. We must ensure that people can reach jobs, childcare, schools, businesses and leisure activities within Oak Park and travel to and from cities and villages throughout northeastern Illinois, but in a manner that is sensitive to the environment and community needs.

Over the next year, CATS will hold several public meetings on the development of the 2030 RTP. The first of these meetings in our area will be in Forest Park on July 22 from 7 – 9:30 p.m. at the Living Word Training Center, 7600 W. Roosevelt Road. The meeting will be a facilitated group discussion format where people will be asked to comment on their individual transportation needs and offer strategies to meet those needs. CATS draft goals and objectives for the RTP will be reviewed, and a summary of all projects submitted to date will be available.

Plan proposals, including several transit-oriented concepts submitted by the Village of Oak Park as alternatives to expanding the Eisenhower Expressway, have been developed and given to CATS for consideration during this process. However, it is important that local residents come to CATS meetings to participate in a dialogue and share ideas about the types of proposals best suited to maintain and improve the transportation system and sustain our region's health.

For more information about CATS or the Shared Path 2030 process, you may contact Tom Murtha at 312.793.3466 or email [SP2030@catsmpo.com](mailto:SP2030@catsmpo.com). Individuals can also visit the CATS Shared Path 2030 web site at [www.catsmpo.com](http://www.catsmpo.com). For more information about the Village of Oak Park's proposals, contact me or the Village Manager's Office at Village Hall at 708.358.5770.

Thank you, in advance, for your involvement in this important dialogue about the shaping of our future transportation needs.

Sincerely,  
Joanne E. Trapani  
Village President