
The Metropolis Freight Plan: Delivering the Goods

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Chicago Metropolis 2020

- Created in 1999 by the Commercial Club of Chicago
- Regional business leaders
- Make the Chicago region work - long term
- Ensure economic opportunity for all
- Align policies and institutions to achieve desired outcomes

Chicagoland Freight Challenges

- Severe road & rail traffic congestion
- Trucks will be $> \frac{1}{2}$ of increased traffic
- Huge intermodal growth - 2x by 2020
- Cheaper transportation yields more traffic
- Gaps in the truck route network
- Insufficient funding - tolls & gas taxes lag inflation & travel demand
- Inadequate freight system planning
- 272 cities, 7 counties, IDOT, ISTHA, RTA
- 6 Class 1 RR's, 3,000 for-hire truck firms

Step #1: Organize Government for Coordinated Action

- Create a regional planning board - now CMAP
 - Merge regional planning for transportation, land use & economic development
 - Set priorities for effective investments
 - Implement a comprehensive financial plan to achieve adequate, stable & equitable transportation funding
 - Plan & implement freight system improvements
- Create county planning organizations
- Provide strong leadership - a freight authority?

#2: Invest in “Freight Centers” to Prevent Congestion

- Industrial areas well served by rail, road & mass transit
- 22 Chicago freight centers - \$44 B sales, 191,000 workers
- 16 Suburban freight centers - \$87 B sales, 362,000 workers
- Zoning protection & intergovernmental coordination needed

#3: Create an Efficient Freight Road Network

- Adopt variable pricing on the most congested roads - save time & \$ billions
 - Apply variable pricing to all vehicles
 - Use tolls to reduce congestion & fund transportation improvements
- Rationalize and connect designated truck routes
- Target an extra \$100 M per year to improve the truck route system

#4: Expand Rail's Capability to Move Freight

- Complete the \$1.5 B CREATE rail program with public and private funds
 - 25 road/rail grade separations & 6 rail/rail flyovers
 - New track, switches & signals
- Develop short-haul intermodal rail service
- Preserve sites for future intermodal centers
- New issue - the EJ&E
- The alternative to rail expansion - decline of rail, breakdown of the road system, economic loss

For More Information:



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