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Vision Development Description, Appendix 6: comments on draft vision statements through stakeholder meetings and survey

Between October 2007 and February 2008, the draft vision statements were reviewed by the working committees, the Citizens Advisory Committee, other CMAP task forces, and several external stakeholder groups. In addition, an online and paper survey geared toward stakeholders was released, and comments were also received through this mechanism.

The attached materials describe the input that was received through meetings and survey results. For each statement, its rank (by mean score) in the survey is given, with 1 being the best and 54 being the worst. Committees and groups who reviewed statements were asked to rate them good, neutral, or bad. These ratings are provided, as well as a summary of comments received. Additionally, write-in comments from the survey are also reported in this document.

In 2040, the northeastern Illinois region will be a magnet attracting new, diverse residents from all over the world. The region will be known for a high quality of life, based on its sustainable, equitable, and inclusive approaches to planning.

ECD committee, 10/30/07

Suggest change in second sentence to: *The region will be known for a high quality of life, based on its sustainable, equitable, innovative, and inclusive approaches to planning.*

ECD committee, 11/27/07

Add businesses, enterprises, and/or investments to “residents” in the first sentence, as we are not just seeking new residents.

Quality of Life

- **The region will consist of attractive, interdependent communities with distinct identities. These identities will be built on their histories, natural and physical assets, and aesthetic preferences reflecting the unique values of their residents and businesses.**

Land Use committee, 10/17/07

Rating: 4 good, 2 neutral, 1 bad

Generally refers to a “place to live.” Phrases are too general; they should instead describe why a person would want to live in northeastern Illinois.

Results of survey:

good	average	bad	rank (of 54 statements)
68%	31%	1%	8

Comments from survey:

Clarify interdependent. Does it mean that communities are dependent on each other? If so, possibly inappropriate.

Perhaps use “independent”? NE IL should also be a destination because of the quality of infrastructure, public transportation, airports, and state of the art medical facilities.

Problem with 1 is that there has been a loss of distinctiveness and quality; I might add a statement that speaks to restoration of quality places through more rigorous architectural and planning standards

Not sure about the word “attractive” in the first item under QOL

- **Northeastern Illinois will remain a global destination for tourism and culture because of its internationally-recognized architecture, arts institutions, entertainment options, and other cultural amenities.**

Land Use committee, 10/17/07

Rating: 4 good, 3 neutral

Generally addresses region as “place to visit” with “things to do.” Avoid listing lots of items – impossible to include everything.

Could be condensed. Tourism and culture are overemphasized – should mention natural amenities and diverse cultural amenities as well. Important to emphasize “destination” – people are attracted by quality of life.

Suggest bullet change to: *Northeastern Illinois will be a global destination because of its internationally-recognized mix of architecture, arts institutions, entertainment options, natural amenities, and diverse cultural amenities.*

Results of survey:

good	average	bad	rank (of 54 statements)
68%	29%	3%	11

Comments from survey:

“arts institutions”; irregular grammar Our post secondary institutions are top in the world. We have superior hospitals.

internationally recognized entertainment options, meaning?

it seems like the second bullet should include something about the natural environment that would attract tourists.

The first point suggests that buildings in communities would always have to be preserved or constructed within a community’s historical context. I strongly disagree with this perspective. Communities must be allowed to evolve: to embrace new technology; new design; new perspectives; new dynamisms and so on. Of course the environment must be respected, but, the tether to historical context should not be mandated. It could be encouraged for appropriate situations, but, not required for others. For example, if Millennium Park in downtown Chicago fit the historical context of the Michigan Avenue buildings, I doubt that it would be the runaway success that it is: a natural people magnet!

Try to incorporate the area’s museums and neighborhoods in the second statement.

- **All parts of the region will have diverse housing, transportation, and recreation choices and will feature equitable access to employment, education and other regional assets.**

Land Use committee, 10/17/07

Rating: 2 good, 5 neutral

Main point relates to “access.” Avoid listing of items – impossible to include everything.

Should be broken into two bullet points. First one: *All parts of the region will have diverse housing, transportation, and recreation choices.* Second one: *All residents will have equitable access to employment, education and other regional assets.*

Results of survey:

good	average	bad	rank (of 54 statements)
58%	30%	12%	43

Comments from survey:

Affordable housing advocates aside, affluent areas are not committed to diverse housing and they need to wake up. all parts of the region will never have diverse housing, etc and equitable access. a more realistic statement is needed

Diverse is a nice word, but we must articulate that our region should be prepared to deliver affordable housing at diverse income levels.

Economics and land use patterns will not permit all types of diverse transit at all locations

Housing diversity in the North Shore and other high end communities is not going to happen.

It is important to include the word “alternative” with transportation - to make sure that walkability, bikeability and pedestrian friendly choices are available, not just multiple highways to choose from for one’s daily commute.

For #3, this is desirable but not achievable under the present jobs-housing structure. I would like to see some modification that emphasizes re-mingling of the jobs/housing/shopping centers.

The State is currently doing a horrible job of dealing with mass transit planning, operations and funding. At the current rate of decline, it is likely that there will be no mass transit in Illinois in 2040.

Third statement is completely not needed it’s just combining the first two.

We don’t all want all parts of the region to be the same, that’s not diversity

- **Overall comments**

Land Use committee, 10/17/07

Quality of life section needs more connection of planning components, such as housing and economic development, to quality of life. A full discussion of quality of life requires approaching economic development capacity

building, not just tourism and culture. (Response that economic development was addressed in separate section.)

An additional point should address community efficiency, including concepts within smart growth, sustainability, and Bruce Mau's discussion of organic systems.

ECD committee, 10/30/07

Indicate throughout document that quality of life, sustainability, and equity are part of all other themes.

ECD committee, 11/27/07

Consider adding innovation as one of the overarching themes, or incorporate this idea throughout all of the themes.

Recognize that the economy in 2040 will have pieces that we cannot predict, in terms of new technology and innovations. Also, address public-private partnerships as one way in which innovation can be measured.

CCT comments, 2/12/08

New bullet suggestion: *While respecting the rights of individuals to live wherever they wish, the region will move toward greater racial/ethnic integration of housing patterns than currently exist.*

New bullet suggestion: *Regional planning and development will be aimed at achieving the highest possible satisfaction with life and well-being of all of its residents.*

New bullet suggestion: *All communities will have access to an abundance of art forms, all residents will enjoy the opportunity to participate in various art forms, and the region will continue to sustain world-class artistic and cultural institutions.*

Overall comments from survey:

Differences between parts of the region are OK. Efforts to force diversity in each "part" (bullet 3) may be counterproductive to bullet 1. Further definition of the size of "parts" may be needed. Is each community a "part"?

I am very excited to have been chosen to take part in this study. I currently work for the Cook County Highway Department, and just yesterday spoke w/ Ted Georgas, the newly chosen assistant superintendent, about a new position in the department and you have struck a willing and eager player. Please contact me to discuss my possible involvement w/ this project.

I believe the goals are laudable, but no one agency has the authority to make it work. We will see, as we already do, county and local governments push these goals, but with their own vision.

I like bullets 2 and 3 above because 2 identifies our region's unique assets and 3 sets distinct goals for the region, not individual communities.

In terms of quality of life, several communities and sub-regions of northeastern Illinois are farther along than others, and will probably continue to lag.

It is a mistake to make people think all parts of the metro area are the same. Bull Valley is not the same as Evanston and will never have high rise housing nor steel mills.

At present, all of the suburban communities run together with little or no distinction between them and no open space separations. Municipalities will continue to build out to their borders as they do not see options other than buying expensive land to keep it in open space.

Many times terminology is perceived differently by different people. Perception on some of these is that they are trying to be global as they obviously should since this is a region-wide plan, but that they still need wording that respects the individuality of each community. Also, to me, it may help to have the vision statement sound more like a goal than something that has already occurred. Especially with the second, that's to say that we are currently the place described in the statement - are we?

Mass Transit could be greatly improved.

Outdoor recreation--forest preserves, trails, state parks, beaches, etc. should be expanded. We don't have climate as a draw but these resources will draw educated people to stimulate investment.

Provincialism will continue to spur competition between local governments resulting in greater social and economic segregation.

Quality of life needs to include education & health care

These are nice vision statements and are achievable, but do not currently reflect the entire region. Many communities will have to do a lot of work to meet these statements.

While Northeastern Illinois is a great global destination, I believe maintaining this as a destination for tourism will always need work/updating. Housing affordability, public education and current public transit are in a state of deterioration. There are many areas in terms of housing that are out of reach for middle-class America, while poor areas continue to see increases in crime and unemployment.

I realize NE IL is becoming more urbanized however these statements seem to downplay the benefits to QOL of the "less urban" areas that still exist. It is as we are planning for no non urban areas.

Sustainability

- **A high quality of life in the region will be possible only if the leaders of today and the future consider the sustainability of the region's systems and activities.**

Results of survey:

good	average	bad	rank (of 54 statements)
63%	33%	4%	20

Comments from survey:

1. What is meant by "systems and activities"?

A high quality of life within what time period? I don't know if it is accurate to state that we will only have a high quality of life in the region in 20 years if we act sustainably.

Again, it's just reworking some of the wording. With the first statement, maybe you'd want to say, "To sustain the high quality of life enjoyed by the region today, leaders will need to find ways to sustain and enhance the region's assets, infrastructure, developmental standards and guidelines" Something like that. Sometimes, and I'm just essentially glancing, the statements may seem abstract to the point of being almost meaningless, or I have to read them three times through to try and figure out what it really might be saying. I think there needs to be more specific pinpointing or it just kind of floats away it's so light.

As long as municipalities have free rein to write their land use laws, sustainability is a pipe dream. The statement needs to call for regional and county standards that municipalities must operate within.

First one is not something that can be implemented. Try: The region's leaders will consider sustainability of the built and natural environment to provide a continued high quality of life for future generations. (Eliminate # 2)

How are systems and activities defined?

We are working towards green communities today not in the future.

Who are "leaders". I hope that it is primarily the private sector - the region's businesses. With input from educators and the public sector.

Recommended revision to item 1: A high quality of life in the region will be possible only if the leaders of today and the future consider and take immediate and significant actions to insure the sustainability of the region's systems and activities.

- **Between now and 2040, our leaders will weigh the environmental, economic, and social impacts of their decisions, both locally and globally, and will consider the needs of future generations.**

Results of survey:

good	average	bad	rank (of 54 statements)
55%	37%	8%	40

Comments from survey:

#2 should be reworded. It has a good point but the point doesn't stand out because of the wording.

Do short term economic impacts trump long term environmental impacts? So far they have.

I suggest that the second statement be the lead statement. What is now the first statement should be action oriented and put in the form of a vision statement - perhaps "The leaders of today and the leaders of the future will take actions that promote sustainability of the systems and activities that maintain a high quality of life in the region."

Probably wishful thinging to imagine our metro thinkers are going to think globally and determine how climate changes might affect Chicago. That is pie in the sky thinking and needs work

Recommended revision to item 2: Between now and 2040, our leaders will make a concerted effort to fully understand the environmental, economic, and social impacts of their decisions, both locally and globally, and will carefully consider the needs of future generations.

- **The region will actively mitigate the environmental effects of its activities -- including climate change -- and will be prepared to adapt to future environmental conditions.**

Results of survey:

good	average	bad	rank (of 54 statements)
48%	37%	16%	54

Comments from survey:

#3 How will they be prepared to adapt to future environmental conditions? In what sense?

“mitigate” seems too broad

3. Why single out climate change? There are a lot of important environmental issues - clean, available water, for example.

With the third statement, will be or needs to be?

again, the 3rd point - should say how the region will do this. what components of the region will do it and what will compel them to do it? (legislation, policy, etc.)

Considering sustainability is not sufficient. It allows for consideration with no action. Can we actively mitigate the environmental effects of climate change? I’m not sure that this is possible

Environmental issues should be given more weight and I do not believe that the region will act together to mitigate their effects.

The third statement is unnecessary because its ideas are already incorporated in the other two. Also, it’s too narrow because it focuses only on environmental issues.

Leaders (elected, appointed and volunteer) need to make a commitment to implementing actions, not just give lip service (consider or weigh or mitigate= too passive)

Target: “who” in the region--? everyone? “leaders” as in the first two vision statements under “Sustainability”?

After “actively” add “seek to” or “strive to” before the word “mitigation”

The third bullet needs to be strengthened to state more strongly that man-made activities must be “green oriented” and avoid any damage to the natural environment. I.E., the Green city concept.

where is the proactive approach related to sustainable design? mitigation suggests business as usual. adaptation is jargon and needs to be defined.

Why mention only “climate change”? There are other equally important environmental concerns. This makes it sound political.

Overall comments from the survey:

At what cost?

Do our leaders realize that this is the proposed vision for the region?

Focus on directing other NATIONS to correct their problems that are wrecking the climate...the US is not the sole problem. Perhaps you can start in China or Mexico with the climate issue.

For the future of our region, country, and world, I believe we all must truly embrace and actively work to implement a sustainable approach to how we as decision makers/policy makers/consumers conduct ourselves.

That said, I suggest modifying these vision statements to include a stronger COMMITMENT to this concept.

Generally, regional and local leaders will agree. However, unless Illinois revises its tax and planning codes, the economics of road construction and retail sales tax receipts will hamper attainment of these goals.

I am a volunteer w/ the Chicago Bicycle Federation, who should be included in this type of regional planning if they are not already involved.

I think it's important to establish "guidelines" or "principles" that would act as screens for all decisions. I don't think that just "weighing" the impacts means that the decisions will come down on the right side of the environmental scale.

Is this economic and environmental sustainability. I see these as expectations not really vision statements.

It is important to begin by laying out a consensus definition of "sustainability". Also, the first two statements are too weak and too similar.

Most of our leaders of today, as elected officials are clueless about zoning and planning issues. Most of their decisions will be based on short term goals of their individual political careers and the lies and/or truths of the developers who come to them with proposals. This needs work, a lot of work. The real question is how do we educate local elected officials to make them understand the ramifications of their decisions 30-40 years into the future??

Not much is being done on this at present.

Only if someone else pays!

The middle statement needs to be stronger, with less talk of "weighing the impact" of their decisions and more proactive statements.

These statements are all so general that I'm not sure what action is being called for.

Too general.

We need to pay attention to being "green" in today's environment.

We need new planners if it will take us until 2040 to consider the impacts of our decisions. Mr Burnham considered these things and created a plan that we still don't follow and it has been nearly 100 years. The need to IMPLEMENT should be more important.

Equity

- **Equity will be pursued as a regional goal to create a high quality of life in all parts of our region. Regional decisions will strive to not create “winners” and “losers,” but will improve the lives of all residents equitably.**

ECD Committee, 10/30/07

Expressed concern with bullet, particularly second sentence, but no specific recommendations for changes made (staff stated that they would improve wording).

Human Services Committee, 12/10/07

Rating: 6 neutral

Expressed concern with “winners and losers” language, and “strive” is too weak. The “burdens and benefits” phrasing in Environmental Justice language could work instead.

Definitions of equity would be helpful – equity across different populations, or equity in terms of access to education or transportation. Historical imbalances could also be mentioned.

CCT comments, 2/12/08

Suggest bullet change to: *Equity will be achieved among individuals and communities in the allocation of public resources such as tax revenues, infrastructure and locally undesirable land uses.*

Results of survey:

good	average	bad	rank (of 54 statements)
48%	39%	14%	51

Comments from survey:

avoid use of “winners & Losers”

How can the lives of the “haves” and the “have nots” be improved “equitably”?

The first statement will probably scare most who read it. In terms of the region’s cities and villages, the “Haves” may feel like something is going to be taken away from them, and the “Have-Nots” may feel like they need improvements in quality of life to be unique to specific needs and conditions that prevail in their specific area. How with some of these. Sounds like some redistribution of wealth and we know how reluctant some can be to voluntarily give-up what they have.

- **Policy and investment decisions will benefit all parts of our region, and all residents will have equitable access to the region’s assets.**

Human Services Committee, 12/10/07

Rating: 4 good, 2 neutral

Add phrase “regardless of location” or other indication of geography.

Clarify whether “equitable access” refers to opportunities or outcomes. Also differentiate between communities and individuals in these statements.

Consider equity as a goal when decisions are made. Add language to indicate that large decisions of regional significance improve geographic equity and equity between groups, and that these decisions are made in a transparent and accountable way.

Consider high concentrations of low-income people and redistribute resources with these concentrations in mind.

Results of survey:

good	average	bad	rank (of 54 statements)
52%	39%	9%	47

Comments from survey:

I think that the equity goals are laudable but not realistic when using the “all”.

So long as sales tax revenues continue to be captured only by the municipality that has the revenue generator, municipalities will continue to chase retail. Sales tax revenues need to be collected on a county or regional basis and distributed pro rata to municipalities. On the diversity side, suburban municipalities continue to pursue exclusionary policies through zoning and other regulations such as limiting housing to related individuals. I don’t see any impetus for change here.

- **Regardless of age, income, ethnicity, culture, or disability status, all residents will be healthy, educated, safe, mobile, and involved in their communities.**

Human Services Committee, 12/10/07

Rating: 3 good, 3 neutral

Add “race” to the list at the beginning of the sentence.

Results of survey:

good	average	bad	rank (of 54 statements)
49%	35%	17%	53

Comments from survey:

All residents will be housed, healthy,....

How about: “Regardless of age, income, ethnicity, culture, or disability status, all residents will have the opportunity to be healthy, educated, safe, mobile, and involved in their communities”.

Third statement is impossible to attain....such statements undermine credibility.

I believe it’s important to include Gender in the third bullet point. Gender inequality and prejudice are alive and well and need to be considered in all planning for the region.

#3 is a Great Society view that simply does not resonate with most analysts. Supporting equitable distribution of quality educational, economic and cultural opportunities is a much more realistic statement.

#3 maybe say all residents will be encouraged to be or say will have the ability to be....not all people are going to be all those things

#3 Residents also contribute to their own health. Not sure that such a strong statement belongs here.

- **Building on the many ethnicities and cultures that have strengthened our region’s society, the diversity of northeastern Illinois will continue to be celebrated in 2040.**

Human Services Committee, 12/10/07

Rating: 3 good, 2 neutral, 1 bad

Suggest bullet change to: *Respecting the many ethnicities and cultures that have strengthened our region’s society, the diversity of northeastern Illinois will be strengthened in 2040.*

Change “continue” to a more active verb that includes action.

A clear line should be drawn between diversity and equity. These are not the same issue, but are connected, and the connection should be stated more clearly.

Why 2040? Why not celebrate continuously until 2040?

CCT comments, 2/12/08

Suggest bullet change to: *The diversity of the region’s many cultures will be celebrated.*

Results of survey:

good	average	bad	rank (of 54 statements)
62%	29%	9%	23

Comments from survey:

are you equating ethnicity with race? "continue" to be celebrated? seems a little prematurely celebratory.

By "celebrating diversity" what we are, in essence, doing is dividing people and encouraging them to work on their own personal agendas and not the the common good. America was at one time a melting pot where all cultures and backgrounds came together to form American culture. If you want to create a unified equality based policy you must stop celebrating diversity and start bonding in commonality. Regional planning will be done by the "haves" and the have nots will fall further behind. Investment decisions are made based on the economic goals of the investor and not with the common good in mind.

The last statement feel vacuous.

- **Overall comments**

Human Services Committee, 12/10/07

Bullets could be condensed into two: one that addresses equity between geographies, and one that addresses equity between groups (minorities, disabled, etc).

Ensure that equity and diversity are considered throughout the statements in other sections.

ECD committee, 12/27/07

Add to equity language that we should recognize inequalities and seek to correct them through investment.

Overall comments from survey:

"all residents" is un-achievable, some people choose not to part of a movement so #2, #3 are lofty goals, difficult to achieve

"Opportunity" is a better way to couch this goal. Equity is too vague and carries the baggage of too many failed welfare state programs.

Again, lofty goals, but the political realities must be considered. Mandated.

Assuming that you can get regional consensus, those would be excellent goals.

Demographic profiles for northeastern Illinois clearly illustrate large gaps in these categories. It is difficult to picture a scenario where regional disparities do not exist.

Difficult topic. I think growth in population diversity will cause homogenization not differentiation

Eliminate 1 & 4, combine 2 & 3: Policy and investment decisions will benefit the region as a whole and all residents, regardless of age, income, ethnicity, culture or disability status will have equal opportunity to be healthy, educated, safe, mobile and involved in their communities. (Note: it is impossible to say that "all residents will be". Government bodies cannot force these things, they can only give the opportunity for people to choose them.)

Equity alone will not create a high quality of life. Policy and investment decisions by whom? Individual municipal decisions will not affect all parts of the region.

I certainly agree with the concept of equity. But having tried to get adjacent communities to think regionally on a very small scale, it is going to be very hard to make this vision a reality. Perhaps they need to be stated in a more action oriented manner. I'll be interested to see what implementation strategies go along with these vision statements.

I think a combination of bullet 2 and 3 really captures our valued diversity and the impacts of our decisions on that diversity.

Income spread is getting wider, wish this wasn't true, but it is...

It is not realistic to think people in New Trier township will not figure out a way to give their kids more advantage than kids in Harvey if the tax rules change and shopping center taxes are distributed evenly.

Might be very challenging to meet this goal.

pie in the sky with Rob

Randy Neufeld is probably aware of this, as should IDOT, CDOT and the CCHD. I just learned of this by a random phonecall on the weekend! How odd you should call me! I was discussing my very limited roll in my division w/in the department yesterday afternoon! I will bring this to their attention Monday!

suggest residents be involved in their communities and stewards of their natural lands and waters
the last 3 statements are too "pie in the sky" -- need details on how these goals will be met
The middle two statements are impossible. All residents will never be educated, healthy, and involved in their communities, often by choice. These goal statements should be less "pie in the sky" and more attainable or at least measurable (if you mean 8th grade education for all, or 99% literacy, then say it, but everyone's perception of "healthy" and "educated" is different).
The whole idea of equity has not been analyzed enough to make adequate goals surrounding the concept. It means different things to different people.
There will always be winners and loser and things will never be equal. This plan needs to be based in reality not in an idealized world.
These are all wonderful statements and I wish they didn't sound just ridiculous, but they do. There are just too many entrenched cultural, racial and financial inequalities for these to sound like anything other than extremely unrealistic, politically correct claptrap.
These are wonderful, but difficult to achieve. What resources and tools will be available to help address equity issues. Outreach to cultures with language barriers is a new duty for municipalities that is costly and time-consuming. It takes away from core duties, how will they fund this and accomplish this?
This is an area where I have seen little commitment from elected officials throughout the region.
Too idealistic
Unless there is equitable tax and resource sharing, these are hollow goals in the current political system
We can't be all things to all people. The people need to invest themselves into the process. Sounds too politically correct.
What utopia are you living in? The entire historical trend of Chicago and Illinois has been "where's mine?". What global shift is going to change this thinking? Go talk to George Ryan!
Equity on a regional basis will never be accomplished until legislation is in place to REMOVE municipalities power to ignor regional plans. If a county puts land use or stormwater regulations in place municiplities MUST be required to adhere to them. They are by nature driven by economics and money and do little consideration for QOL or what harm may be done outside thier boundaries. If something is a bad idea outside of town why does annexing it into town make it a good idea?

In 2040, decision-making in northeastern Illinois will be informed by considerations of environmental health, energy use, and water supply.

Environmental Health

- **The region will be a world leader in implementing innovative measures to protect the environment, including air quality, biodiversity, natural and human communities, water quality and supply, and the overall ecological health of the region.**

Results of survey:

good	average	bad	rank (of 54 statements)
65%	29%	6%	17

Comments from survey:

In the first bullet I suggest changing the word “innovative” to “effective”. I don’t think most people care how innovative something is if it is not effective. Likewise, most people prefer effectiveness over innovation.

1. World Leader, really?

Again, some cost-benefit analysis needed - World Leader status may be beyond our reach based on available resources.

The first statement seems to be a crusade rather than a realistic goal

- **The region’s nationally-recognized system of forest preserves, conservation districts, and parks will continue to shape regional identity. Especially along sensitive waterways, open space will be preserved and expanded, creating green infrastructure networks that enhance people’s connection with nature and serve as habitat corridors.**

Results of survey:

good	average	bad	rank (of 54 statements)
79%	19%	3%	4

Comments from survey:

How does open space shape our identity? Shouldn’t we be striving to improve the quality and usability of open space and ensure access to the entire public?

The second bullet point makes an important point, however, it is verbose and could be condensed somewhat to get the point across more clearly.

- **The tremendous ecological diversity of the region and its native plant and animal species will be recognized and celebrated.**

Results of survey:

good	average	bad	rank (of 54 statements)
61%	33%	7%	22

Comments from survey:

Native animal species do not necessarily do well in an urban area. Skunks, rodents, raccoons, opossums, rabbits, deer, etc. are not really desirable in the residential, commercial or industrial neighborhoods.

#3 - Cheesy

3. How will it be celebrated?

The third statement seems unnecessary because its idea is really incorporated in the first.

- **Lake Michigan will be protected in a coordinated effort with other states, regions, and countries as an irreplaceable natural resource for health, recreation, tourism, and economic prosperity.**

Results of survey:

good	average	bad	rank (of 54 statements)
81%	15%	4%	2

Comments from survey:

#4 - perhaps should remove health or choose different word.

- **Water quantity and quality will be sufficient to sustain aquatic ecosystems, both in Lake Michigan and in other water bodies.**

Potentially more appropriate in "water supply" area, based on comments from RWSPG staff.

Results of survey:

good	average	bad	rank (of 54 statements)
63%	27%	10%	27

Comments from survey:

add, "including underground aquifers."

How will we make it so that "water quantity and quality will be sufficient...?"

On the last point, need to say that the region will take proactive measures to ensure that water quantity and quality will be sufficient to sustain ecosystems. Without an active descriptor, the statement is too passive and without anyone accepting responsibility for it.

Something left out. "Water quality and quality....?"

We need a regional commitment throughout the great lakes region on both sides of the border to protect this valuable resource.

Overall comments from survey:

Add "ecological diversity" to #2 and then #3 can be eliminated. Add "other water bodies" to #4 and then #5 can be eliminated.

Again, I am amazed with the timing of all this!

Although Cook County is in relatively good shape, the collar counties lack the resources to adequately preserve enough open space. State matching funds would help in this regard so they don't have to rely solely on local referenda.

Especially key is preserving more open space, as we add 2mm people.

Ditto

I don't view our area as possessing tremendous ecological diversity

I think that bullet point 1 (The region will be a world leader. . .) and 3 (The tremendous ecological diversity . . .) can be combined.

If we continue to allow unchecked growth, drinking water will become a commodity that is in short supply. Water recycling to a level far above where we are today will need to be the priority if we are to allow continued expansion.

Lost in the in fighting with Rob

Lovely and I hope so, but how if we're not already there? Maybe we are?

not if BP continues to dump arcinac in to lake Michigan

Open space is critical to include in all urban areas as well as outlying areas. And urban areas are certainly growing in every part of the region. Just as Burnham intended there to be open space within walking distance of every urban resident, so should our current planners look into the future with this in mind. One shouldn't have to drive to open space, nor is open space only for habitat protection - it's for the health of our human population of all ages, but especially our children and local, accessible open space is critical to get those children outside in unstructured play.

Sounds a bit too idealistic. Implies that these issues will drive, not support the growth of the region.

The last two will only be true if we stop wasting limited lake resources on things like reversing the Chicago River

The two statements on Lake Michigan should be combined, and a separate statement should address the

groundwater aquifers and their recharge areas as a key environmental resource that also merits protection.

These are our best natural features that need to be enhanced and offer the most opportunity to improve quality of life.

These environmental achievements related to water quality are excellent but should be stronger.

We will probably need more nuclear power to keep up with energy demands and not pollute the environment

Great goals and ideas but will NEVER come to be until municipalities especially Chicago lose the power to do as they wish. They are driven totally by money they will get regardless of consequences to others.

Energy and Resource Conservation

- **Abundant transportation options, mixed-use infill development, and a balanced supply of jobs and housing will reduce pressure to develop in environmentally sensitive areas and will reduce regional energy consumption.**

Results of survey:

good	average	bad	rank (of 54 statements)
57%	36%	7%	34

Comments from survey:

#1 should also emphasize that the region is willing to become a national leader in workforce options to the extent that energy is conserved through congestion reduction and air quality is improved.

“Abundant CONVIENENT transportation options. . . .” Why just previously undeveloped areas? Currently developed areas should strive for this same end.

1. Abundant transportation options is a high goal. Right now we have not been able to overcome the financial barriers to public transportation in the suburbs or the citizen’s desire to be in their own car.

A well coordinated transportation system versus abundant. The green movement is growing.

As a planner and environmentalist I love the first statement, but will it play to half, maybe more, of the audience who runs screaming from anything with the connotation of urban in it? Again, is this a future hoped-for or a current reality.

efforts to achieve “proximity” of jobs and housing

I don’t think transportation, infill devel and jobs/housing will REDUCE PRESSURE to develop in environmentally sensitive areas. However, greater awareness of the impacts on such areas might.

Public transportation options are really not feasible where people’s jobs are spread out over the entire metro area. We need to create “edge cities” to funnel jobs into concentrated areas that can be accessed by public transportation. Nothing is being done on this at present.

Public transportation outside Cook County is a joke. Unless your destination is downtown Chicago you are not getting there from here. Suburban buses are being cut back each year yet the plan calls for more. We NEED a suburban bus system that is safe, dependable and well funded or gridlock is our only future.

Suggested reviisions to item 1: Abundant transportation options combined with (i) mixed-use, infill, compact, and higher density development/redevelopmet and (ii)a balanced supply of jobs and housing will be encouraged and accomodated to reduce pressure to develop in environmentally sensitive areas and to reduce regional energy consumption.

The first bullet should also point out that jobs and housing need to be developed near one another so that people do not have to travel long distances to find employment (this is covered in the housing discussion but would also be good to bring up here)

The first statement seems to be focusing on the notion of promoting land use and transportation patterns that conserve resources, so it should say that more directly. Likewise, the second statement should more directly state that land development policies should promote conservation. It might even be possible to combine the first two statements into one.

- **Development that occurs in previously undeveloped areas will be designed to limit energy use and minimize disturbance of sensitive environmental land.**

Results of survey:

good	average	bad	rank (of 54 statements)
54%	39%	7%	41

Comments from survey:

#2- same standards for redevelopment areas as well?

#2 will be controversial in areas that are just developing. It sounds like these areas will have different standards to adhere to than previous areas have had to. Maybe the words “will be designed” can be changed to “are encouraged”. Otherwise it raises the specter of who will enforce the design.

CMAP should actively discourage greenfield development and suburban sprawl going forward, to reduce auto dependence and greenhouse gas emissions and increase regional competitiveness.

Communities will develop based on the desires of their residents, not an overall regional mandate.

Define “previously undeveloped areas”. Does that mean farmland that should be preserved for crop production.

point two is too wishy-washy

second bullet - not only to limit energy use, but also water, stormwater runoff, etc.

With developers buying land where wetlands exist, and trying to maximize their profits, it will take strong leadership to turn developments away that use the land just for profit. A developer does not typically live in our region, so having someone come in and make a presentation on land development and telling a community that traffic, road infrastructure and wetland restoration will occur with the utmost sensitivity to the area requires the involvement of everyone.

- **The region will remain an innovative leader in green building techniques and conservation design, promoting energy efficiency and conservation of resources. The region will also take national leadership in the research, development, and production of green energy.**

Results of survey:

good	average	bad	rank (of 54 statements)
66%	29%	5%	15

Comments from survey:

Again, not things that point to implementation. All 3 can be combined into one stronger statement along the lines of: Regional energy consumption will be reduced by limiting development in previously undeveloped areas, promoting mixed-use infill development, pursuing green building techniques and striving for transportation options that will promote a balanced supply of jobs and housing.

Conservation design in theory sounds wonderful. In practice a conservation design ordinance can be drafted or applied in ways that can cause more harm than good. Developers will be resistant. Deals will be made.

Laudable, but we will not “take national leadership...”. Fermi lab might make major contributions but don’t depend on the private or governmental sectors.

third bullet - How does “the region” do these things?

The region can’t “remain” an “innovative leader” in these areas when it is anything but.

Overall comments from survey:

Again, a bit too idealistic. Need to be more realistic.

alternative energy sources are not specifically included above.

It seems that the vision should be that residential and housing development will be focused in areas that have, or have had this development - ie redevelopment as opposed to new development. Not only does this utilize existing infrastructure requirements, it minimizes the consumption of wet lands, farm lands and other natural areas. Sprawl must be discouraged and density encouraged in existing built up areas using green design.

no new development in greenfields

Really important area

This is not Ilkinois with Rob

We need more expressways in the right places, like 53 in Lake County extending to route 12 in Wisconsin through McHenry county, and to just say we need options, is not leading nor providing leadership to get it done. We

still need the crosstown expressway, and a Fox Valley expressway paralleling Randall Road which were blocked by governors.

You must be aware of Mayor Daley's City Hall Rooftop garden. I am shocked at the timing, as I have said. Until control of public transportation is TAKEN AWAY from Chicago and a board with common sense is in place the transportation options will never take place -- it is not in Chicago's interest to have good public transportation it would give the economically disadvantaged a better opportunity to improve their lives outside of Chicago thus reducing their political power.

Water Supply

- **Water will be treated as a critical natural resource, and water resource planning will be a high regional priority. The region will continue to be known for its high quality of water and recognized for its efforts to protect it.**

Results of survey:

good	average	bad	rank (of 54 statements)
82%	17%	1%	1

Comments from survey:

Is water not treated as a critical resource now? I don't know, just asking. Are we recognized for water resource planning efforts? How, even just a couple words for the second one, but for example,through a carefully defined process of just something to say how some of these beautiful concepts and thoughts apply to the current and correspond with reality.

- **The quality of water supplies for human use will be protected, with water demand and supply managed responsibly to ensure equitable availability.**

Results of survey:

good	average	bad	rank (of 54 statements)
69%	27%	4%	10

- **The contribution of water supply to the economic well-being of the region will be recognized and reflected in planning and development decisions.**

Potential inconsistency with goals adopted by Regional Water Supply Planning Group (which do not reference economic well-being) noted by staff.

Results of survey:

good	average	bad	rank (of 54 statements)
74%	24%	2%	6

Comments from survey:

I suggest that the third statement is very similar to, or incorporated into, the first.

Survey comments:

!!!!!!!!!!

all pollution of the greatlakes must stop.

Based on growth projections, lake michigan water will need to be extended to more suburbs

Combine 1 & 2.

Combine all: Water will be treated as a critical natural resource in quality and quantity, with supply and demand managed responsibly to ensure equitable availability and the economic well-being of the region.

Define "region" and who manages.

Development should not occur outside of Lake Michigan's current municipalities supplied unless the new areas have good enough "bones" for conservation and increasing infiltration and reducing flooding from run-off.

Equitable availability to who and where? The region's water should remain within the Lake Michigan watershed and not made available outside the region.

Excellent goals.

I don't think this goal is achievable. The dau may come where the intense growth out west cannot be sustained unless they have access to lake michigan water. Maybe there needs to be a statement that new growth in undeveloped land needs to be planned with the current water sources available. If DuPage County had not been able to get LM water, we might have had different development patterns/decisions during the last 20 years.

I prefer stronger language here - we can't just "recognize" the need to protect water, we need to legislate and mandate all water conservation methods as well as improved water runoff and sewage treatment systems that are based on employing natural wetlands and bioremediation processes. It's not just because of the region's "economic well being" that this needs to be done - it's to make sure that we have enough water to drink, period.

I think more effort should be made to stress water conservation. By 2040 there will not be wasteful consumption of our water resources. Also, there should be acknowledgement of a wide diversity of water sources for public and business use.

insuring public access and availability? privatization of water can result in the haves and the have nots being designated by \$\$\$\$\$\$

It's about time water sustainability becomes a planning issue. It must also become a developers burden to prove there is sustainable water supply where he/she wants to develop BEFORE being permitted. Aquifer depths and withdrawals must be monitored. Simply piping water around the region is not responsible management of the resource.

Managing water supply is a touchy phrase and may not be politically possible

Not without ZPG

Perhaps something to be added about demand reduction in particular?

See above comment on aquifer protection. These statements should also reflect the importance of the lake, wetlands and streams as high-value ecosystems that should be protected for other species as well.

Someone had better talk to Indiana about protecting Lake Michigan. What is the region? If we are to protect the water the region must be much broader.

The great lakes need to be protected from use (theft of water) by other parts of the country, outside of the great lakes basin.

This is a number one priority

Water is a serious problem for collar counties that do not have access to Lake Michigan. Their preferred options at this point appear to be to try and pump it in from areas further to the West which are still mainly agricultural, rather than try to limit development in water shortage areas. Some work is being done on limiting water usage but new subdivisions continue to be built which emphasize large expanses of turf grass.

Legislation need to be put in place to require municipalities especially Chicago to follow such regional plans otherwise it will not be fair and equitable. The cities will fight for power and control of water to "prevent" other area from having good economic growth. The remaining agricultural and unincorporated areas will be starved of water.

In 2040, our region will have equitable and inclusive social systems that foster an educated, healthy, safe, and involved populace.

Housing

- **The region’s communities and institutions will recognize that housing is a basic human need.**

CCT comments, 2/12/08

Suggest bullet change to: *The region’s communities and institutions will recognize that housing is a basic human need and collaborate on strategies aimed at housing every resident.*

Results of survey:

good	average	bad	rank (of 54 statements)
61%	30%	9%	25

Comments from Survey:

Basic human need or basic human right?

Not needed.

“Basic human need that creates better neighborhoods.”

“Basic human need” is too similar to “basic human right” and will seem watered down to those who struggle for affordable housing.

Housing is a basic human need but communities shouldn’t be considered dumping grounds for those that can’t afford homes.

Do we not recognize that housing is a basic human need now?

First one is too obvious and people should already know it.

I think everyone already knows that housing is a basic human need.

Referring to the first bullet point: That housing is a basic human need is never disputed. What IS disputed, and precisely what should be defended in this plan is that housing is a HUMAN RIGHT. This is reflected in international human rights documents, including that of the United Nations.

The first statement implies that some areas of the region do not recognize housing in this way. It’s also a statement that cannot be converted to a measurable goal.

I believe that most, if not all, recognize that housing is a basic human need.

Don’t they already?

- **All residents of the region will have access to a variety of options for decent and safe housing. The region will pursue progressive, inclusionary housing policies that respond to national trends and market conditions.**

Results of survey:

good	average	bad	rank (of 54 statements)
57%	33%	10%	38

Comments from Survey:

Eliminate 2nd sentence.

“Inclusionary and ATTAINABLE housing policies . . . ?”

Is “inclusionary” realistically a housing policy in this region? Any region? We’ll see how mixed-use works in relation to Cabrini and ABLA in Chicago. We don’t know long-term how that will work. Will it play in the less-diverse, more uptight suburban areas?

This sounds a bit weak.

Suggested modification to item 2: All residents of the region will have access to a variety of options for decent and safe housing. The region will pursue progressive, inclusionary housing policies that respond to national trends, market conditions, and projected demographic changes in the region. I also suggest that consideration be given to once again recognizing and reinforcing the need for compact/more dense housing developments rather than typical suburban sprawl.

- **Housing in the region will continue to be affordable compared to other major metropolitan areas, both for homeowners and for renters.**

CCT comments, 2/12/08

Suggest bullet change to: *Housing in the region will be affordable compared with housing in comparable metropolitan areas.*

Results of survey:

good	average	bad	rank (of 54 statements)
51%	30%	19%	52

Comments from Survey:

How will this be accomplished?

Incorporate "affordable" into #2 and eliminate.

How is that controlled by this plan?

It is not now, nor will ever be, under the present system of land pricing. Requires a significant regional effort to repair a fractured system.

"Continue" and "relative" are irrelevant to those who can't afford to move.

Are we affordable? Maybe relative to New York or California, but are we really relatively affordable? Doesn't really feel like it - and I'm even talking in communities region-wide that feel marginal.

Housing is NOT affordable, so it can not CONTINUE TO BE.

This sounds a bit weak. Our region should not simply be comparable to other major metropolitan areas: it needs to be a LEADER for other metropolitan areas.

Third bullet - this says that housing "will continue to be affordable", which assumes that housing in the region is CURRENTLY affordable.

- **Supplies of housing and jobs will be balanced regionally, allowing residents to find work near their homes and businesses to attract workers from nearby areas.**

Results of survey:

good	average	bad	rank (of 54 statements)
58%	28%	14%	45

Comments from Survey:

How?

Good point. This will cut down on commuters and the roadway bottlenecks.

Nice in theory, but the regional planning groups of the area are allowing the destruction of the largest amount of affordable housing in DuPage County, to make way for the O'Hare expansion. Sadly, many people living here worked at the airport--forcing them to find alternative housing farther away.

The last statement will only be true if communities desire to make that a reality.

It is unrealistic to say the region will be balanced without improving the expressway system.

Housing location choice should be based on individual decisions that may or may not relate to employment locations. Employment locations change frequently.

Fourth bullet - I agree with this statement but wonder how it can be implemented.

Overall Survey Comments:

Affordability is only possible if municipalities stop using impact fees to fund inefficient institutions such as schools and increased density is allowed to lower the price of land. If there is a fight over this, let's have it now... otherwise affordability is a hopeless pipedream.

Affordable housing will be more difficult to find in the years to come. Especially in the upscale towns.

Again, too idealistic. Needs to be more realistic.

Continued work to provide affordable housing will be needed.

Could all be stronger.

In 2040 housing will still be based on price and you will have the options available to you that are in your price range and nothing more.

Lovely utopian statements that still need to give a couple words to current and a way to transition to the future to achieve these statements.

Every topic has so much dependent on cooperation. I am somewhat taken aback by the choice in your statements; this is amazing considering my conversation w/ Mr Georgas yesterday afternoon!

Great housing goals but I have not seen the buy in from elected officials.

Housing in the collar counties is already at an unaffordable level for most low to moderate income families.

Without those families we will not have the workforce to sustain our commercial, retail, food service and even health care facilities. All politicians spout the need but few are willing to have the "affordable" housing in their communities. The idea that using sub-prime financing to get people into homes they can't afford just blew up in the faces of those who perpetrated it.

It would be hard to conclude that housings issues, which have been around for centuries, can be cleared up within 30 years.

Lacking some incredible legal change, the rich will continue getting richer; the poor, poorer, and never the twain shall meet in the outer suburbs. Regardless of discrimination, the fact is that the economic reality of land development in exclusive communities simply does not make this goal realistic.

Let the marketplace work - do not suggest control.

More clarity needed here. Balance of greenfield development and infill is the key to economic housing balance in region

National trends are fine, but we must also have a realistic picture of our own context. The word affordable on its own is no longer sufficient to tell a true story. The region will have different income levels-sadly there will always be those at the extreme ends of the spectrum. Our region can do better in planning for a diverse range of incomes, especially preserving housing for special needs populations and those who make under 50% of AMI. Please include accessible housing language.

Nothing in these statements discuss our housing stock character - history of providing diverse housing from apartments to mansions, historic greystones and bungalos to new townhomes and condominiums, homeownership and rental opportunities. Largest transformation efforts in the nation with the Plan for Transformation. Diverse communities providing housing for households in need of housing support, the working class, and the region's most affluent. Housing stock will be the cornerstone of our region's growth economically and across race and class.

Some kind of section 8 should be available for the incomes up to 90,000 to help the middle class before it disappears.

Some steps need to be taken to limit sprawl

I would also like to see some connection made in one of the statements between housing and economic development and sustainability.

The housing issues need to be bolstered by a funding source goal.

The housing question is too vague.

The idea of decentralization is implied and necessary since people really have to travel fewer miles - the health and environmental impacts of this shortened daily commute can be enormous

The only affordable housing options at present are either in high crime urban areas or fringe green field areas where land is cheaper. I see no effort to change any of this. Suburban communities continue to fight affordable housing to maintain exclusionary populations. English only and anti immigration efforts are symptomatic of this as well.

This is a critical issue that is only getting worse. The big financial players will by 2040 be a part of the means of providing safe, affordable, and desirable housing.

This is a total pie in the sky, what is the economic engine to pay for this?

You might want to include a phrase about housing options for aged or disabled populations being available within the community.

Again until a regional authority is in place there is no way that municipalities will allow balanced growth they are going to want the tax dollars from business and the other area that will "get" the housing will never see the money to properly update roads etc without high property taxes. Which will create less chance for lower income housing options

More talk of appropriate density & walkable, livable scales of neighborhoods, and grassroots involvement in housing issues would be good. Maybe even explicitly talk about moving away from car culture to people culture.

Public Health and Safety

- **Residents across our region will be able to choose healthy lifestyles that benefit from the availability of open space, transportation and recreation options, and the availability of healthy food and clean water.**

Human Services Committee, 11/19/07

Remove phrase “be able to” – our vision is that they do choose them. Also, the accessibility and availability of health care should be referenced at the end of the sentence with food and water.

Results of survey:

good	average	bad	rank (of 54 statements)
70%	26%	4%	9

Comments from Survey:

Add “and a strong system of health care and medical institutions” after clean water in #1, and eliminate #2.

First bullet- this seems to imply that some people would choose unhealthy lifestyles.

To the first item, add “clean air”.

- **The region will strengthen its system of health care and medical institutions, protecting public health and economic competitiveness.**

Human Services Committee, 11/19/07

For a future vision, we should have a strong system of health care, not just strengthen it.

Results of survey:

good	average	bad	rank (of 54 statements)
65%	28%	7%	19

Comments from Survey:

Further clarification needed on the second bullet point.

Hard to argue any of these points but the public sector hospital models are in pretty bad shape currently in region.

Second point should include availability - strengthen its availability of and system of health care

Statement two should be put in the form of a vision statement (i.e., “ will have a strong system..... that protects), and it should include an emphasis on access to this system for all.

- **Our communities will be safer due to improved design, effective law enforcement, and social responsibility through increased civic involvement.**

CCT comments, 2/12/08

Suggest bullet change to: *Residents will be made safer through improved community design, effective law enforcement, improved access to opportunity, individual social responsibility and increased civic involvement.*

Results of survey:

good	average	bad	rank (of 54 statements)
56%	37%	7%	33

Comments from Survey:

Add “comprehensive and cooperative incident management” after law enforcement in #3 and eliminate #4.

Add walkability of neighborhoods.

Crime is decreasing due to demographic factors. This will continue to be the case. Nothing we have been doing in law enforcement has been effective. To eliminate crime you have to eliminate poverty. No one is seriously interested in doing that.

Third bullet - what does "safer due to improved design" mean?

I think #3 calls for more money and where is it coming from? Citizen involvement will not provide the dollars needed to accomplish these goals.

I would recommend that Point No. 3 include an emphasis on preserving and expanding safety by focusing on activities that prevent our fellow citizens from committing crimes instead of those that focus on incarceration.

In bullet three I suggest adding "prevention strategies" after "improved design". Prevention strategies play a critical role in the health and safety of communities. Prevention in its broadest sense overlaps the areas of public health, safety, and well-being.

It is right to include "increased civic involvement" as a component of ensuring safe communities.

- **The region and its residents will be served by robust, comprehensive systems for managing incidents -- both large and small scale -- related to public health, transportation, stormwater, fire, natural disasters and national security incidents.**

Results of survey:

good	average	bad	rank (of 54 statements)
62%	26%	11%	30

Comments from Survey:

The word incident is used redundantly in bullet point four.

Incident management will evolve to what it needs to be.

We need to enhance our disaster preparedness to create a well coordinated regional effort to address crisis management.

The emphasis is wrong: we should be more about predicting and preventing "incidents" than about managing them after the fact.

- **Other comments**

CCT comments, 2/12/08

Suggest new bullet: *The Chicago region will be among the safest urban areas in the nation.*

General Survey Comments:

Great effort needs to be given to reducing the number of taxing governments in the region. The statements so far in the questionnaire are all apple pie and mother hood and are nice but fail to get to the issues of how to make it happen.

I feel a little like I'm listening to a politician. Lovely platitudes and thoughts but lacking much substance. Will this be read in the first place and even if it is, will it be just as quickly dismissed while they work on the 2050 plan? Again, I know what these statements mean, but I still find myself saying whaaaaaat? and reading it 2-3 times and then saying hmmmmmm.

Show me the money

The word "will" is too strong

These statements don't hit close to the target when you consider the needs of the "Have nots", the increasing number of senior citizens, and youngest in our society, and those with disabilities.

This is where I get a bit lost. Public Health is a bit out of the direct scope and impact of CMAP. So, I'm leaning towards the planning statements above that affect health and away from issues like the Health Care system.

We are SO far behind in public health and safety that these goals are clearly unrealistic.

Will, or should? Some of this is idealized already, I am floored by the timing of all this!

Healthcare shouldn't be subject to profit. It's a human right and should be provided as such. Law enforcement should be responsive and respectful to all--more than just effective. And we need to approach disasters from the concept of resiliency not prevention (bad stuff will always happen; we need to put structures in place to make sure that we mediate those ill effects and can keep going).

Education

- **Our region’s schools will have adequate and equitable funding, with well-qualified instructors, performance accountability, and fiscal efficiency across the region.**

CCT comments, 2/12/08

Suggest bullet change to: *The region’s schools will have funding adequate to ensure that every child may be educated to the limits of his or her capability.*

Results of survey:

good	average	bad	rank (of 54 statements)
56%	29%	15%	48

Comments from Survey:

How do we meet this at the local level?

Add “from early childhood to higher education” to the end of #1, eliminate the rest.

On the first point I would add “All” our regions schools ... This would include private schools which take a huge burden off the public school system.

Perhaps above all else, equitable access to quality public education may be the region’s most important and controversial long range goal as it would require a fundamental restructuring of the property tax system.

Illinois continues to rank 48th or so in the nation in public funding for education. Reliance on property taxes is used as a method of keeping schools in wealthier areas well funded while placing hardships on seniors and those with fixed incomes. It is a travesty.

Illinois’ constitution mandates the state provide 50.00001% of school funding. Call on the state to fulfill its obligation.

Our schools NEED to have performance accountability but due to the strength of the teachers union the teachers are tenured and often times over-paid and are not really interested in accountability and their pay raises lead to fiscal inefficiencies.

The key will be to find alternative funding sources for school districts because school taxes are getting out of control.

Without education funding reform, this will also remain an area of “haves” and “have nots” The property tax burden in those areas with good schools is getting unbearable. With the housing down turn we may very well see a reversal of the quality of education

- **Learning opportunities beginning with early childhood will prepare young people across the region for a dynamic future that will enable them to participate fully in society.**

CCT comments, 2/12/08

Suggest bullet change to: *Learning opportunities beginning with early childhood will prepare the region’s young people to participate in society.*

Results of survey:

good	average	bad	rank (of 54 statements)
64%	24%	12%	28

Comments from Survey:

Add something specific about workforce readiness to the second statement.

Educators will know the needs of employers and understand critical skill shortages. As such, their curriculum will include appropriate training to develop students that are workforce ready. I assume “participate fully in society” includes being employed. This relates to the life-long learning point as well, but being able to respond to shifts in the local and global economy is critical.

- **Appropriately funded and aligned educational institutions will allow all residents to benefit from seamless life-long learning.**

Results of survey:

good	average	bad	rank (of 54 statements)
59%	31%	10%	35

Comments from Survey:

How do we meet this at the local level?
 I am not sure what aligned educational institutions means.
 What is an ALIGNED educational institution?

- **Our world-renowned institutions of higher education will continue to be centers for innovation of research, attracting students and researchers from around the globe to study and live in northeastern Illinois.**

CCT comments, 2/12/08

Rephrase end of bullet to: “centers of learning and research, educating the region’s students, contributing to the region, and attracting students and researchers from around the globe.”

Results of survey:

good	average	bad	rank (of 54 statements)
80%	17%	3%	3

Comments from Survey:

None.

General Survey Comments:

Add the word “public” before all schools. Private schools should not receive public funding.
 Broad adult lifelong learning and worker retraining fits the future demographic.
 Connections between improved schools and community development seem to be missing from the statement above. So much of our efforts around economic development are closely linked with the performance of our schools.
 Ethnic cleansing is still in progress.
 How about the region becoming a more involved in promoting additional public college development and growth? Two great lakeshore private schools, and a host of small non-research colleges does not create a lot of interest in research activities in the suburban areas. A greater role for U of I in the west or northwest suburbs is long overdue!
 I would like very much to see something about continually raising standards for education, particularly at the middle school and high school levels.
 If you are serious about improving schools, alternative systems must be stressed and communities must have the option of vouchers.
 In order to realize the first three bullets, there should be an implementation strategy that has all governmental bodies in the region signing onto education funding reform.

Learning should relate to the evolution of a global society in language and culture. We also need to ensure the retention of highly educated and innovative products of the education system.

Low educational attainment is a NATIONAL epidemic, and one that Northeastern Illinois will not be immune from.

Of course all of this depends on a fairly funded education budget and that depends on state funding.

Education can't be based on our property taxes if it's going to be equitable. We have to increase the state income tax and provide a "graduated" form of taxation that fairly taxes the wealthy and large corporations who are not paying their fair share.

Overall, you're working in a vacuum. I completely agree with your goals, but deal with the realities that are barriers.

So many of these statements hinge on policy from beyond our region that feels like we have little control over.

It seems that our vision statements should include how-to's along with the we-hopes. I don't mean to be too harsh, but as I read some of these statements I find myself fighting the impulse to stick my finger down my throat.

These are all fine, but I don't really see education as an appropriate priority for CMAP to target. Let's get land use and transportation right.

This is great, but we must always realize that because we are individuals there are no cookie cutter models. Our education must prepare students who are academically inclined as well as vocationally inclined. Schools should have learning opportunities that are prepared to nurture students' natural talents and challenges. Our teachers must not only be well qualified-but trained in working with diverse cultures (income cultures as well as ethnic cultures).

We are SO far behind in pre-college education that these goals are clearly unrealistic.

We need to realize that education reform on a statewide basis is the basis for local expectations and that adequate funding along with pedagogical reforms in actual classroom activities and student performance are forward looking approaches that are not captured in the education section.

What is adequate funding? What is equitable funding? Should state funding be distributed such that all schools will have the nearly the same per student? Some districts property tax only allows 4700 per student while others can spend 8-9000 and they still get more state aid than the districts spending 4700. State funding should go toward education programs and not reward districts that build 100 mil dollar school instead of a more modest 50 mil dollar one.

The need to create active, informed citizens needs to be in there in some way. Else we fall into the "global economic supremacy" trope and risk thinking of education as a private good and not a public good.

In 2040, the economy of northeastern Illinois will enjoy a global status that ensures superior job opportunities for all socio-economic groups.

Economic Competitiveness

- **The economic strengths of downtown Chicago and suburban employment centers will complement each other, with the entire region benefiting from its international recognition as a diversified center of commerce. Our reputation as the “city that works” and the “city of broad shoulders” will continue to be relevant, attracting employers in search of skilled workforces in a variety of industries and other fields to the region.**

ECD committee, 10/30/07

Suggest bullet change to: *The economic strengths of our interdependent region will complement each other, with the entire region benefiting from its international recognition as a diversified center of commerce and its location at the center of the Midwest.*

ECD committee, 11/27/07

Going beyond the region as the center of the Midwest to the center of the country or continent would improve the suggested bullet above.

Results of survey:

good	average	bad	rank (of 54 statements)
70%	21%	9%	16

Comments from survey:

what about those parts of the Chicago metro area that are underserved by employment?

I don't remember seeing this bullet before.

Recommended minor revision to item 1: The economic strengths of downtown Chicago and suburban employment centers will complement each other, with the entire region benefiting from its international recognition as a diversified center of commerce. Chicago's reputation as the “city that works” and the “city of broad shoulders” will continue to be relevant, attracting employers in search of skilled workforces in a variety of industries and other fields to the region.

The first statement is lovely. There is so much competition though and still a mentality of further away from urban is better. Maybe gas prices and traffic jams will help people want to stop adding rings to the sprawl tree. How do we find a vision statement that encourages people to do so. I'm sorry. I know this is well-intentioned and well-meaning, but I can't help but feel that it sounds like a lot of fluff void of substance that will be quickly dispatched to the recycling pile (hopefully people do recycle).

There are many urban centers besides Chicago in the region that can be highlighted for their contributions to the region.

We need to change the moniker to “the region that works” and “the region of big shoulders”.

- **Long-term economic benefits will be created through planning and implementation that makes efficient use of resources and enhances our environment, public health, social equity, cultural amenities, education systems, and physical infrastructure.**

Results of survey:

good	average	bad	rank (of 54 statements)
62%	28%	11%	32

Comments from survey:

“Efficient use of resources”; should prioritize using existing infrastructure and resources and our economic development should seek to exploit that which we already have (rail in particular).

Suggest bullet change to: “Long-term economic benefits will be created through planning and implementation that makes efficient use of resources and enhances our environment, public health, social equity, ATTAINABLE HOUSING, cultural amenities, education systems, and physical infrastructure.”

Delete the words “;...planning and implementation”; It is vague and makes more sense without it. too general

assumes a cause & effect.

keep this bullet, eliminate the rest, but consider adding “and recognizes the economic contribution of our farmland, suburban and downtown Chicago employment centers.”

Long term economic benefits should include our integrated transportation system. Investment should include a comment on our education systems.

Long-term economic benefits... vague.

- **Investments in the region’s human capital will occur through workforce development programs or other training that prepares students and workers to excel in the diversified jobs of the future.**

Results of survey:

good	average	bad	rank (of 54 statements)
59%	30%	11%	37

- **Our farmland, which is among the most fertile in the nation, will be valued as an important regional resource because of the economic contribution it makes, the food and fuel it produces, the scenic value it provides, and the soil and water it protects.**

ECD committee, 10/30/07

Consider moving this statement to the energy theme, because it does not fit well within economic development.

ECD committee, 2/26/08

(After staff indicated that this bullet was best suited to the economic development section)

Rephrase bullet to focus on agriculture, which is an economic activity, rather than farmland, which sounds more like a natural resource.

Results of survey:

good	average	bad	rank (of 54 statements)
62%	24%	15%	39

Comments from survey:

Farm land is disappearing rapidly. If we dont stop this..there will be none

I’m not sure that valuing farmland for these things will result in its preservation as farmland.

Glad to see the question on farmland, but I have found that most chicagoans ignore it and think all the beautiful fields are boring. Also there is no policy that protects farmland. Look at Kane COunty.If a developer wants to build , they just annex to a village or city. THE farmer, who knows he is in the right place , sells out and moves to Florida.

How can this valuable farm land be preserved and utilized when developments and suburban sprawls continue at a rapid pace?

Our farmland should also include advancements in technology which enhance our production.

Need better farm land protection especially for Class A soils.

Put farmland preservation first or second. It's way more fundamental than the blobby stuff about workforce development programs

Reality: our farmland is NOT among the "most fertile in the nation"; Ag protection is a laudible side effect to containing urban sprawl but don't BS its benefits. It's other contributions to the region's economy, food supply, etc. are negligible in the larger perspective.

Some additional comment on protecting tillable soils should be emphasized. People generally overlook the destruction of quality soils as a sustaining strategy and economic strategy.

The economic boat has sailed (to China) and is not coming back. Farmland continues to be lost to development. Chemically dependent farming practices deplete the soils and contaminate the food we eat. GM crops pose an unknown risk to health. (At least one child has already died from eating GM products which contained genetically spliced enzymes which had similar effects as peanuts, to which she was allergic).

The region's farmland will be used in the manner the land owner sees fit. If selling it for development has more value than scenery then it will be developed.

Open space should be specifically mentioned as a possible contributor to the economic health of the region. Farmers should be encouraged to "grow local and sell local" and move away from monoculture like corn and soy beans. We could feed our own millions by food we grow right here at home saving untold amounts of energy wasted in transportation and refrigeration and increasing jobs, reducing soil loss through the use of sustainable farming methods rather than factory farming techniques, and improving the diets of our increasingly overweight population.

There is more farm-land in southern Illinois and in Iowa and Kansas and other farming states...farmers are selling their land for development so they can make millions.

Farmland needs to be recognized as an economic tool -- not greenspace. Agriculture is successful for its production resources.

- **Overall comments**

ECD committee, 10/30/07

Add new bullet: The region will be recognized as a center of innovation across all disciplines, and will encourage creativity and entrepreneurial activity.

ECD committee, 11/27/07

Add more language about the region's global status, possibly referring to its location at the heartland of America, and its role as a nexus of global activity.

Also, language concerning good jobs, which is missing from this section, should be added.

Overall comments from survey:

...in a perfect world..., but it remains far from perfect from what I see.

Economic benefits evolve from a diversified, well managed economic system -- not esoteric land use planning values! The workforce needs diverse skills in communication, science and math -- jobs evolve from the diverse economic system.

Economic competitiveness seems more appropriate as an over-arching goal that will be achieved if the objectives in the various areas (education, environment, health, etc.) are met.

I believe another bullet should emphasize innovative industrial processes, creative use and reuse of a variety of energy sources, and [policies not to burden the economic producers with heavy taxes and regulations.

I would include that we, as a region, would also pour tremendous resources into becoming global leaders in high-growth, fair-paying business sectors that will fuel high job growth; high standards of living; and high migration to Chicagoland. We would also expand Chicago's role as the transportation hub of the nation and the Midwest -- in part by building state-of-the-art high speed rail lines that better connect us to the rest of the Midwest and nation. Further, if supersonic air travel is the future, we must find environmentally acceptable and sustainable ways to construct the world's best such airport (if it must be constructed in Lake Michigan, then we must find

a way to do it while fully protecting her and the ecosystem that depends upon her).

Increasing taxes, transportation congestion and higher than average cost-of-living and politics will eventually become a deterrent to economic growth in our area.

Need more specific capital improvement goals.

This are has nothing even remotely approaching a healthy balance between downtown Chicago and unbridled suburban sprawl. Accordingly, these goals are ridiculously unrealistic. Is this supposed to be a plan or a wish list.

This was a bad section. Needs a lot of work!

This will also have to be done by another agency and not municipal ones. Good goal, but I think we'll need to change the mindset of developers and municipalities.

too vague include transportation of people and products to emphasize below

Transportation within the region needs to be improved for this to happen.

Wheres the beef?

You have to address taxes and the public sector's refusal to reduce expenses especially employee health care costs. Northeastern Illinois is NOT CHICAGO and is NOT a single city. Economic strenghts? Chicago now has HIGHEST Sales Tax in the state and thanks to poorly run mass transit now has the entire area paying the highr gas prices the the country. Chicagao now taxes bottled water and has the highest highest employer taxes and you still beleive business will be attracted here? Bussiness are not really attacted here but by nature of Lake Michigan not much can move thru the country without passing thru the area. Importance of farmalnd is next to nil there is very little being done to fund its protection and cities are converting it as fast as they can to a use that produces better cash flow.

Talk about the need to not compete against each other through corporate giveaways and TIFs--businesses should be forced to pay off any advantages they receive. Talk about attracting the right kind of employers--ones that reflect our values of sustainability and putting people before profits--no one needs rapacious employers just here to exploit us (and our tax base giveaways).

Reinvestment

- **We will maximize the competitive advantage of existing physical infrastructure by encouraging reinvestment in our communities through development that is mixed-use, compact, and in infill locations.**

Results of survey:

good	average	bad	rank (of 54 statements)
74%	22%	4%	7

Comments from Survey:

Needs to address taxes that leave region at a competitive disadvantage.

I realize that much is inter-related, but without looking, I feel like the first statement appeared elsewhere. Love it, what does it mean for #2?

Only keep #1.

The infill idea works in some cities, but for those that just want single family housing, it doesn't.

Very little infill development is occurring except in cases like Arlington Heights and Palatine where they have run out of land. Lack of infill and redevelopment is a major problem.

- **Public and private reinvestment in people and places will contribute to community prosperity, affordability, and vitality across the region.**

Results of survey:

good	average	bad	rank (of 54 statements)
64%	30%	5%	18

Comments from Survey:

2 needs work; I think of reinvestment as plans and infrastructure, not people and places.

Bullet point #2 is vague.

Public and private...vague.

Second bullet - too general, not sure what it means.

What is public and private reinvestment in people and places?

- **The region's existing multi-modal transportation system will be maintained and enhanced, leading to environmentally sensitive and fiscally efficient outcomes.**

Results of survey:

good	average	bad	rank (of 54 statements)
58%	33%	9%	36

Comments from Survey:

This will need a revenue source to accomplish.

Bullet point #3 could include information on how the region can work together to accomplish this.

For item 3, stress "enhanced". Also, "fiscally efficient" needs to be in regard to the big picture, not just to the mode of transportation being reviewed.

I like the third statement, but don't think it goes under reinvestment - more transportation.

I'm a Transportation Planner and I feel that the third statement needs to be stronger, more decisive, stated in a way that will make people listen without being too harsh.

Perhaps change the second portion of the sentence to: "...enhanced in an environmentally sensitive and fiscally efficient manner."

What kind of environmentally sensitive and fiscally efficient outcomes are we talking about?

Third bullet - does maintaining and enhancing the transportation system naturally lead to those outcomes?

Specificity on "fiscally efficient outcomes"

The region's existing multi-modal transportation system will be maintained, enhanced, AND EXPANDED, leading to environmentally sensitive and fiscally efficient outcomes.

WHAT existing multi-modal transportation system? Do you mean the one that has commuter rail lines all reaching downtown but NOT connecting the region together? Or do you mean the one that has been under-funded by billions and billions in deferred capital investment? Or do you mean that one that is really a highway system with mass transit existing only as the resort-of-last-choice?

Suburban mass transit could be greatly improved. Will take a large investment but would be worth it. A suburban subway system would be ideal.

The cost of public transportation has to be allowed to increase and not always subsidized to keep costs unrealistically low.

Transportation funding will be allocated equitably between mass transit, maintenance of existing infrastructure and road building.

- **Overall comments**

ECD committee, 11/27/07

Reinvestment needs to be defined better.

General Survey Comments:

Combine the first 2 and clarify the 3rd.

How far are you thinking? Smart Streets are in the future, but new highways must be retro-fitted to allow all this to occur, true? We continue to make improvements, but this is really out-there! But anyone can dream, correct?

Again, what you're doing is a very, very thorough job and I recognize that. I'm not trying to be harsh just to be nasty, but I just feel that no one will get through it or after about five minutes of it, people will be humming their favorite songs in their head or thinking about what they're going to have for dinner.

It's not obvious how any of this relates to "reinvestment"

One of the first two statements should include something about adaptive re-use, new urbanism - i.e., creatively adapting underutilized land into modern development.

Only encourage reinvestment to the extent that it does not negatively impact other communities' ability to develop.

Redevelopment needs to be done with open space and be LEED sensitive.

These objectives are not necessary due to overlap with energy and resource conservation and transportation.

The region needs to seek federal funding approaches as many taxes and initiatives, including federal highways passing through our region, are key to securing funding for any expectation of enhancements.

The transportation system is falling apart as we speak and may shut down.

We must fully commit ourselves to securing investment in under-invested communities to attract an appropriate level of retail, commercial, industrial and recreational business to establish quality of life equity across the region: no more food deserts, restaurant deserts; entertainment node deserts; medical care deserts and so forth!

multi-modal transportation maintained? Doesn't it need to be built first? Unless of course by region you mean Chicago that's the only place it now exists and the current political appointees aren't capable or interested in maintaining it.

Transportation Accessibility and Efficiency

- **The transportation system, which is the region’s link to the global economy, will continue to be a major cog in the competitive advantage of northeastern Illinois compared to other metropolitan areas.**

Transportation committee, 11/15/07

Rating: 3 good, 9 neutral, 2 bad

Replace “cog” with another word. Replace “will continue” with “must continue.”

The need for continued investment should be highlighted in this or another bullet.

Suggested bullet change: *The transportation system, which is the region’s link to the global economy, must ensure the competitive advantage of northeastern Illinois compared to other metropolitan areas.*

ECD committee, 11/27/07

Replace “cog” with “asset.”

DMMC, 11/27/07

Rating: 4 good, 5 neutral

(No discussion.)

IATF, 12/7/07

Rating: 3 good, 1 bad

Replace “cog” with “component and foundation” or similar phrase.

Add language stating that the transportation system will cement the region’s pre-eminence as a hub in the global economy and will help maintain its competitive advantage.

NWMC, 12/20/07

Rating: 9 good, 1 neutral

(No discussion.)

Results of survey:

good	average	bad	rank (of 54 statements)
61%	29%	10%	31

Comments from survey:

#1 - the region should do everything in its power to reinforce the region’s pre-eminence as a transportation hub through strategic investment of capital resources (i.e., CREATE, O’Hare, Rail and Shipping Port enhancement)

#1 and #2 imply that the current system is good (“will continue to”)- it is NOT. Eliminate all and replace with: Through investments that reflect regional priorities, congestion will be managed effectively throughout the region and all modes of transportation will be integrated to ensure safe and efficient movement of people and goods to, within and through the region.

Bullet point #1- cog= eh. use component or simply “competitive advantage”.

I don’t like the word cog in the first statement - it does not flow very well.

perhaps include in the first statement something about “continued improvement”

- **Our regional systems of interstates and toll roads, public transit, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, airports, freight and intermodal facilities, and water-based transportation options will continue to serve the region’s needs and support its quality of life.**

Transportation committee, 11/15/07

Rating: 3 good, 8 neutral, 3 bad

Add arterial and local roads to the list of transportation systems. Intercity rail could also be added to this list.

This is more of a statement of fact than a vision – it’s a way of achieving bullet number 3.
The statement should also indicate that the region’s transportation systems should work in a coordinated fashion.

DMMC, 11/27/07

Rating: 2 good, 6 neutral, 1 bad

Statement does not say much except to list transportation modes – could be reworded to state that these elements are pieces of a holistic transportation system. In light of current funding issues, statement could also say that these modes are regional treasures that need to be protected.

Local roads and arterials should be added to the list of modes. Paratransit should be added as well.

“Improve” or a similar word should be used instead of “continue to serve.” There is much room for improvement in the current system. Also, the system should support the region’s growth, not just meet its needs – or, serve the region’s “growing needs.”

IATF, 12/7/07

Rating: 1 good, 3 neutral

We don’t need the word “regional” here or elsewhere – the entire vision is regional.

Include the idea of asset management in this bullet. Our transportation systems must be improved, not just continued. In addition the integration and coordination of systems should be referenced here.

The language about the region’s needs should indicate that these needs are growing.

NWMC, 12/20/07

Rating: 7 good, 2 neutral

(No discussion.)

Results of survey:

good	average	bad	rank (of 54 statements)
61%	30%	9%	26

Comments from survey:

Explore nexus in point #2.

For item 2, when “will continue” is indicated, it implies that the current system is adequate, when it is not. To serve the region’s needs, we need to have much less congestion and more transportation choices. Airports, expressways, many local streets, and even mass transit, especially in Chicago, are all currently in gridlock at the times that they are most needed.

Mention in the second bullet that the systems need to be properly maintained, updated, and improved for us to remain competitive.

- **Through investments that reflect regional priorities, the region will have a broad range of integrated transportation choices that are accessible, inviting, easy to navigate, and affordable.**

Transportation committee, 11/15/07

Rating: 5 good, 6 neutral, 1 bad

This could serve as the entire vision statement for transportation – other bullets just back this one up.

Add the word “clean” to the list of descriptive words about the transportation system. The word “inviting” is also not ideal.

Statement should also address land use integration, mobility needs of a changing population, and the distribution of benefits.

DMMC, 11/27/07

Rating: 6 good, 3 neutral

(No discussion.)

IATF, 12/7/07

Rating: 1 good, 3 neutral

Having a range of integrated transportation policies is also important – consider changing “choices” to “policies.”

NWMC, 12/20/07

Rating: 2 good, 7 neutral

Remove “investments” – what does that mean? Who is going to pay?

This is tricky – it sounds like taxation.

Results of survey:

good	average	bad	rank (of 54 statements)
67%	23%	10%	21

- **Congestion will be managed effectively in all parts of the region, fostering sustainable economic activity and a high quality of life.**

Transportation committee, 11/15/07

Rating: 5 good, 6 neutral, 5 bad

Discussion centered around the word “manage” – is the goal to manage or relieve congestion, or do we want to manage travel rather than congestion?

This statement does not tie back in to the idea of sustainability – the effects of congestion on air quality and the environment are important as well.

This statement could be the result of the other vision statements – not a vision in itself.

DMMC, 11/27/07

Rating: 5 good, 4 neutral

(No discussion.)

IATF, 12/7/07

Rating: 2 good, 2 bad

Suggest bullet change to: *The region will have mobility and accessibility, fostering sustainable economic activity and a high quality of life*, or something similar.

Bullet could be eliminated and incorporated into the second bullet.

Add discussion of asset management and preservation in this statement.

NWMC, 12/20/07

Rating: 3 good, 4 neutral, 2 bad

Don't want to “manage” congestion, want to get rid of it. To manage effectively – does that just mean transfer it from one spot to another? Change “managed” to “reduced.”

Too much “how to” in this statement, just state the vision.

Results of survey:

good	average	bad	rank (of 54 statements)
53%	28%	19%	50

Comments from survey:

Congestion is not being managed effectively now and it doesn't appear that it will change. What will you do to improve the system?

Where in the world, in an economically desirable place, is there no congestion?

4 and 5 need work - it is impossible to manage all parts of a region this size effectively at one time with as many players and as few \$\$ as we have. It might be more fair to say like in #3 that the region will need to act together to allocate scarce resources to the most critical or efficiency-inhibiting locations.

- **Building on its history as the nation's freight capital, the region will thrive as an international hub of goods movement and intermodal logistics, due to an efficient, fluid and expandable transportation system.**

Transportation committee, 11/15/07

Rating: 3 good, 10 neutral, 1 bad

Mitigation of negative impacts of freight should be added. Also, the word "fluid" is not great.

Some redundancy exists with the first bullet of this section.

DMMC, 11/27/07

Rating: 4 good, 2 neutral, 3 bad

Mitigation of freight issues at the local level should be included in this statement. Freight has regional benefits but often places burdens on local communities, and this should be acknowledged.

Balancing passenger and freight traffic on rail lines should be addressed, also considering the impact of freight traffic on the pedestrian environment. Separation of freight and passenger rail facilities should be pursued.

The statement may not be necessary – freight is addressed in other bullets in this section. It focuses more on freight's importance in the economy than on transportation, so maybe should be in the economics section.

Pass-through freight traffic may not benefit the region, as freight that moves through the region or transfers from one mode to another may not create enough economic activity to offset its costs.

IATF, 12/7/07

Rating: 2 neutral, 2 bad

The phrase about building on the region's history should be replaced with language concerning improving on the past. The statement should be more oriented toward positive change.

Defining freight as part of the transportation section does not recognize its contribution to economic development.

Also, the relation of freight and intermodal facilities to land use and agricultural production needs to be in the vision statements somewhere.

Instead of just an "international hub," the statement should state that the region is a local/regional/national/international hub.

"Fluid and expandable" is not a good phrase; instead, language could refer to increasing capacity, or planning and creating efficient and interconnected transportation systems.

Improved interchanges between rail freight should be included in the vision statements.

NWMC, 12/20/07

Rating: 3 good, 5 neutral, 1 bad

Quality of life needs to be included in here again. Why was it removed?

This assumes a regional net gain, meaning that there are going to be losers. That will affect this part of the region the most.

Thinking regionally – but considering every little part of the region. There needs to be recognition of local concerns along with regional ones.

Results of survey:

good	average	bad	rank (of 54 statements)
70%	22%	8%	12

Comments from survey:

While I agree with these statement the desire to be a frieght capitol using all modes will lead to mass congestion if investment in mode seperations is not made. Just enacting CREATE and moving the problem to the collar counties is a not a solution to the regions problems.

4 and 5 need work - it is impossible to manage all parts of a region this size effectively at one time with as many players and as few \$\$ as we have. It might be more fair to say like in #3 that the region will need to act together to allocate scarce resources to the most critical or efficiency-inhibiting locations.

- **Overall comments**

Transportation committee, 11/15/07

The statements need more pizzazz, and are more like strategies than vision statements. Also, the integration of land use with transportation is key, and should be in the vision statements.

One statement should be identified as the vision, with the rest as supporting material.

IATF, 12/7/07

A separate section for freight should be created to emphasize its importance to the region. This is a high priority for the IATF.

Survey comments:

#2!!!!

Adequate transportation facilities are absolutly necessary to maintain and improve the economic viability of the region. However, they are always also treated as unpopular NIMBY's and political pay-offs. Serious (and likely very unpopular) efforts must be taken to provide some seperation of transportation improvement projects from the corruption of the State and local political process (Robet Mosses wasn't all bad, and remember George Ryan).

Again, the organization of the job market in a spread out manner along road arteries prevents any effective public transportation options. New business should be required to have transportation connections prior to building but, as everything is done on a municipal level, this is unlikely.

BUILD MORE ROADS. WE NEED ROUTE 53 EXTENDED THROUGH LAKE COUNTY ILLINOIS. OUR RESIDENTS CAN'T GET ANYWHERE AND SPEND TOO MUCH TIME STUCK IN THEIR CARS.

continuous maintenance and improvement of existing roadways not include anywhere above

Expansion of the regional transportation systems? I do not want to see more interstates, but public transit could certainly be expanded and enhanced for the betterment of the region.

I suggest: "new transportation technology to adapted to the chicago region and in place for those living in 2040 so they will be ready for the remaining 60 years in the 21st Century (not several years behind the "curve" as it is today).

Infrastructure must be maintained. The CTA business model is a disaster and self destructing. Also not all areas will qualify for tranist and this should be emphasized.

Limit sprawl

Metra and CTA are incredible systems that need to be updated and enhanced. These systems differentiate our area from lower tier cities.

More attention needs to be given to emphasizing the improvements we will make to transportation networks to ensure that we remain competitive with the rest of the word. "Continuing" with what we have now (as implied with the use of the word "continuing") means that we will continue to have freight / roadway conflicts because of a lack of grade separations, we will continue to have significant passenger rail delays, and we will have no high-speed rail. I think we should strive for better than that.

Not bad. Seems to be a little more direct and cite examples that are a little, little bit more specific.

nothing is said about making sure that these resources are available in all parts of the metro area - perhaps there should be a statement that recognizes the interconnectivity between available transportation systems and economic development

Our transportation "system" in anything but. We don't have one, so it's not possible for "it" to "continue" to be anything at all. Compare Chicago's transportation "system" what what other advanced industrialized nations have and you can only laugh. It's pathetic.

Roads that need to be expanded or enlarged to handle more traffic need to be identified and acted upon sooner before the problems start. Funding for this will be critical to it's success.

See Economic Competitiveness comment.

Show me ? I have never seen the leadership in this state for 6 years

The economic development section makes no reference to financial resources - what happened to that?

The entire Chicago area has "outgrown" the transportation system. There is a lot of room for improvement in this area, 2040 of fixing the problem is a good goal but unlikely as the population will continue to grow.

The integration of land use and transportation should be discussed. the first and fourth visions almost seem the same.

There is too great an emphasis on the "international" and "global" and not enough on the local and regional.

There need to be investment/reinvestment provisions in the statements to accompany the regional transportation and freight transportation goals.

These need to be changed to reflect the workshop session of last week.

Traffic is absolutely abysmal in Lake County due to the rapid building of homes without balancing or planning road expansion as well.

We are 20-40 years behind in the construction of highways connecting the suburbs. We should be building beltways now along Rte 47, I-39 and others. We waited to build I355 until Rte 53 was in gridlock. The system needs to recognize that Chicago is not the center of the universe.

We don't have anything in here about transportation innovations (new modes) or interconnections throughout the region - not just from the suburbs to city and visa versa but from suburb to suburb.

What does a "major cog" mean? Also, what does "affordable" mean in this context?

Need to define the region. Investments that reflect the regional priorities seem to mean Chicago needs and priorities.

The area mainly Will County is freight hub by geography not because of an efficient, fluid transportation system.

The roads are poorly maintained and heavily congested due to money diverted to the region priority Chicago which has the one of the most poorly designed and run transportation system in the country.

Put more emphasis on the development of clean, efficient, supported mass transit and less on "balance" which will inevitably be an invitation for yet more cars.

In 2040, governance systems in northeastern Illinois will feature a high degree of coordination and civic involvement.

Coordinated Planning and Government

- **Our region’s leaders will look beyond political boundaries to address inter-related challenges and to find solutions that maximize quality of life across the region.**

Land Use committee, 11/14/07

Rating: 3 good, 3 neutral, 1 bad

Phrase “region’s leaders” should stay general because it includes business leaders as well as elected officials.

Statement is too general, “but it has to be.”

ECD committee, 11/27/07

Make the statement more future oriented by subtracting the word “will.”

DMMC, 11/27/07

Rating: 4 good, 4 neutral, 1 bad

(No discussion.)

DMMC Board, 12/6/07

Rating: 3 good, 2 neutral, 1 bad

(Specific comments not recorded – see below for overall comments.)

NWMC, 12/20/07

Rating: 4 good, 4 neutral, 1 bad

Change “maximize quality of life” everywhere. “Enhance” quality of life is a better phrase.

CCT comments, 2/12/08

Suggest bullet change to: *The region’s leaders will work across political boundaries to address issues affecting multiple jurisdictions so as to maximize quality of life across the region.*

Results of survey:

good	average	bad	rank (of 54 statements)
59%	26%	15%	46

Comments from survey:

#1 - Love this comment, but good luck with it!

- **While celebrating the diversity of the region’s municipalities, we will share resources and plan collaboratively to promote efficiency and equity in planning our region’s economic, environmental, social, and infrastructure systems.**

Land Use committee, 11/14/07

Rating: 3 good, 3 neutral

Suggest bullet change to: *While celebrating the diversity of the region’s municipalities, we will share resources and plan collaboratively to promote efficiency and equity in planning our region’s economic, environmental, social, educational and infrastructure systems.*

There are too many buzz words in this statement.

Eliminate the first part of this phrase (“While celebrating the diversity of the region’s municipalities.”) Keep the part beginning “We will share...” and combine this with the last sentence of the fifth bullet in this section.

DMMC, 11/27/07

Rating: 1 good, 6 neutral, 2 bad

Sharing resources is not necessarily desirable, and raises a red flag for municipalities. Coordinating use of resources may be a better phrase, and the statement is good if the “share resources language” is removed. Or, the statement could clarify that the sharing takes place in mutually beneficial ways.

The clause about celebrating diversity is not ideal, and should be replaced with preserving individuality, uniqueness, or character. Diversity can be defined in many ways, and the statement should be clear to the public.

Effectiveness would be a better word than efficiency in this statement.

DMMC Board, 12/6/07

Rating: 1 good, 3 neutral, 2 bad

(Specific comments not recorded – see below for overall comments.)

NWMC, 12/20/07

Rating: 3 good, 2 neutral, 4 bad

Get rid of “share resources.” What does this mean? How much sharing?

Add language concerning mutual benefit to the statement about planning collaboratively.

CCT comments, 2/12/08

Redundant of bullet #1.

Results of survey:

good	average	bad	rank (of 54 statements)
54%	37%	9%	44

Comments from survey:

2. This will be tough to accomplish. It’s hard to deal with problems and home and then find time to deal with regional issues.

Land use choices of communities impact thier ability to derieve income from said uses. Sharing the revenue of land uses that are hosted in a community with other communities is not an issue all communities will agree too.

On item 2, what does “share resources” mean? It’s very unlikely that any municipality will willingly share it’s money or staff with another, outside of the framework of mutual aid.

Would like to see “openspace” included in this list, not just “environment “

- **Planning for physical infrastructure and the use of land will be coordinated, creating links to social systems like health care, public safety, education, and social services.**

Land Use committee, 11/14/07

Rating: 2 good, 3 neutral, 1 bad

Vision should result in more action than creating links. The second half of the statement will be difficult to achieve but is appropriate to say in a vision.

DMMC, 11/27/07

Rating: 4 good, 5 neutral

(No discussion.)

DMMC Board, 12/6/07

Rating: 5 neutral, 1 bad
(Specific comments not recorded – see below for overall comments.)

NWMC, 12/20/07

Rating: 2 good, 4 neutral, 3 bad

This sounds too textbook, like it came out of some basic “planners manual.”

This seems like an over-reach; this is just a local issue, not a regional issue. We do this already, so we don’t need to say it. Who is dictating we do this?

Results of survey:

good	average	bad	rank (of 54 statements)
62%	27%	11%	29

Comments from survey:

Planning for physical infrastructure needs to recognize employment centers and jobs.

- **On major inter-regional issues, our leaders will coordinate with their counterparts in Wisconsin, Indiana, Michigan, other neighboring regions, and Canadian provinces.**

Land Use committee, 11/14/07

Rating: 1 good, 4 neutral, 1 bad

Suggest bullet change to: *On major inter-regional issues, our leaders will coordinate with neighboring regions in Illinois, Wisconsin, Indiana, Michigan, and Canadian provinces.*

Some comments that coordination with Michigan and Canada may be too far-fetched, and the focus should be on Indiana and Wisconsin.

DMMC, 11/27/07

Rating: 6 good, 3 neutral

(No discussion.)

DMMC Board, 12/6/07

Rating: 2 good, 2 neutral, 2 bad

(Specific comments not recorded – see below for overall comments.)

NWMC, 12/20/07

Rating: 2 good, 4 neutral, 3 bad

What are “inter-regional issues?” Define this better. If it’s Lake Michigan or air quality just say it.

Results of survey:

good	average	bad	rank (of 54 statements)
70%	22%	8%	14

Comments from survey:

What “major inter-regional issues?”

- **Intergovernmental cooperation based on mutual benefit will structure taxation in the region to promote reinvestment and equitable access to resources among communities. The region will make decisions concerning physical infrastructure that consider long-term sustainability in terms of both operational and capital expenses.**

Land Use committee, 11/14/07

Rating: 3 good, 2 neutral, 1 bad

Consider splitting into two bullets instead of one.

Discussion concerning whether the vision should address taxation. Some found the focus on taxation to be unnecessary and too controversial, while others thought that taxation was a fundamental issue that should be heightened.

ECD committee, 11/27/07

This bullet is a high priority and should be moved up further in the statements in this section. However, it may focus too much on intra-regional cooperation.

DMMC, 11/27/07

Rating: 6 neutral, 3 bad

General consensus was that the statements were too wordy.

Equitable access to resources was an issue, although “equitable access” is a better phrase than “equity.” This type of statement again raises red flags for municipalities. It was noted that some communities do not want commercial development in their communities and should not be forced to take it.

The second sentence should read “the region’s leaders” instead of “the region.”

The mention of taxation was an issue and there was discussion of how it should be treated in the vision statements.

It was commented that the tax structure should avoid pitting municipalities against each other.

DMMC Board, 12/6/07

Rating: 2 neutral, 4 bad

(Specific comments not recorded – see below for overall comments.)

NWMC, 12/20/07

Rating: 3 neutral, 6 bad

Get rid of the first sentence. This sounds like income redistribution or a regional sales tax. Regional taxation is not an option.

Remove “taxation” change to “equitable access to resources.” Focus on the distribution, not generation of more tax funds.

Second sentence is ok.

While these statements should think regionally, they also must respect local concerns.

Results of survey:

good	average	bad	rank (of 54 statements)
52%	32%	16%	49

Comments from survey:

Expound on the “structure taxation” remark.

I would suggest deleting the first sentence of the last bullet point. It’s unclear where that is headed.

- **Overall comments**

Land Use committee, 11/14/07

Overall these need crisper, clearer wording. We know what we want, we should just say it.

DMMC Board, 12/6/07

Quoted from letter from DMMC staff, 12/21/07, concerning meeting outcomes (the discussion of vision statements was conducted by DMMC staff, on behalf of CMAP): “...while red dots were attributed to all statements in this category, the last statement – regarding intergovernmental cooperation around restructuring taxation –

received the highest number of red dots. Throughout all of the statements, words and terms regarding “equity,” “access,” and “shared resources” raised concerns when not clearly associated with mutually beneficial outcomes. Other concerns raised during our review were a lack of clarity about who makes decisions and about consequences of those decisions. In addition, members noted that many of the statements would benefit from more clarity and focus and less fragmentation.”

NWMC, 12/20/07

There was an overall concern with the vision statements. There were comments about the disconnect between what is said in the vision and what is actually possible, that the vision doesn't mesh with what is happening on the ground today. There was a general uneasiness and distrust of any regional approach, concern about planning from on high, or transferring any power to a regional authority. There were several comments about how a regional approach translates into winners and losers, and that sacrifices would have to be made in their communities to support other communities they weren't interested in supporting.

Survey comments:

All levels of government need to be aware of the resources available to them so as to promote the equitable development of the region. Local governments need to be in the loop about what will help make them more competitive, for the benefit of us all.

Are you dreaming this is Chicago and Illinois, never has this hapined before

Comine all into: While celebrating the diversity of the region, our leaders will look beyond polital boundaries to plan collaboratively to promote efficiency and equity in physical infrastucture and social systems.

Communication is key.

Devil is in the details.

I think all above are great!

Illinois land use laws guarantee that each municipality will go its own way and compete with its neighbors for sales tax revenues and land acquisition. Regional planning is ineffective as it is routinely and universally ignored at the municipal level. Citizen input is usually on a NIMBY basis and is often ignored. Regional oriented groups that try to impact municipal development decision are viewed as outsiders if they don't live within the municipal boundaries. The “Greek City State” mentality prevails at all levels.

Interpretation is key to how well the first statement is received. Could be a no-go if it feels to socialistic (smile) to the audience. 1 and 5 could be sticky, I started to drift on 2, but 3 and 4 sounded promising.

It seems that the first, third, and fifth statements are saying similar things. Could they be combined? more like “We recognize municipalities and the region are dependent upon one another to improve the quality of life.” ditto on using “opportunity” instead of “equitable”

Most of this sound absurd. We are talking about CHICAGO here ... not the EU.

Nice visions, not likely realities.

Same comment as above

See responses to 1-3 above.

Successful communities should partner with tax deficient communities offering their wealth of experience and guidance to supplement the basic community infrastructure of the weaker partner.

These concepts are desirable, butr one look at Springfield is enough to recognize that raw politics will stand in the way of progress in the entire State of Illinois.

this has to be a public/private partnership undertaking to be effective

this sounds nice but with economic competitiveness cultivated by th e State tax structure, this is not the present case of cooperation.

Until you stop tax base planning, you are not going to get intergovernmental cooperation that is better than now.

Very idealistic. Achievable? Probably not.

Wouldn't it be great if these things come to pass?

Yes, but who has the tangible benefits and therefore shares the greatest burden? Don't we all benefit from increasing correct system?

You can't control the political process or influence it. Leaders that believe in this vision are not generally the same ones that get elected to local offices.

Great Goals. No city will ever sign on to give up the power to do what ever they see as a positive revenue stream for them.

Civic Involvement

- **Between now and 2040, residents from across the region will take civic pride in their communities and will actively help shape action on the full range of regional issues that contribute to a livable region.**

CAC, 12/10/07

Rating: 4 neutral, 2 bad

Should be phrased so that residents have the opportunity to be involved, and are not “commanded” to do so.

Statement is weakened by all the clauses in the middle – remove these to strengthen it.

Suggested shortened bullet: *Between now and 2040, residents will actively help shape action on the full range of regional issues that contribute to a livable region.* However, some people liked the “civic pride” phrase.

The regional role of the vision should be emphasized here.

Results of survey:

good	average	bad	rank (of 54 statements)
63%	26%	10%	24

Comments from survey:

#1 WILL is a strong word...almost like you are forcing a person to do this

perhaps include in the first statement “will be encouraged to take civic pride” stressing the need to work at this

Statement 1: Will they?

- **Planning processes will encourage, respect, and value contributions from people of all backgrounds, ethnicities, cultures, and ages.**

CAC, 12/10/07

Rating: 4 good, 2 neutral

Consider using “incorporate” in place of or in addition to one of the “encourage, respect, and value” words.

Results of survey:

good	average	bad	rank (of 54 statements)
78%	17%	6%	5

Comments from survey:

AGain, please add ‘Gender’ . I don’t know how exactly, but somehow the media should be included in this section .

They do have a responsibility to play a role in keeping everyone informed and involved.

Number 2 - add people with disabilities

Statement 2: Slipping further away.

- **Residents of the region will stay informed about issues and decisions through planning processes that create frequent, manageable, and meaningful involvement.**

CAC, 12/10/07

Rating: 1 good, 4 neutral, 1 bad

Statement does not lead to much action. Possibly add language to explain why involvement is important because it raises accountability and involves more people, helping to avoid mistakes. The statement could also address what discourages participation and address these issues.

Replace “stay” with “be kept.” Also add that residents will “have the opportunity to” or “be motivated to” be kept informed, rather than just saying that they will be.

CCT comments, 2/12/08

Suggest bullet change to: *Planning processes will thoroughly inform residents about issues and decisions so as to ensure meaningful resident involvement.*

Results of survey:

good	average	bad	rank (of 54 statements)
58%	31%	11%	42

Comments from survey:

Statement 3: oh please.

- **The region’s strong history of advocacy by neighborhood, civic, and business organizations will continue, and these organizations will contribute to public policy discussions.**

CAC, 12/10/07

Rating: 3 good, 3 bad

Replace “discussions” with “decisions.”

Results of survey:

good	average	bad	rank (of 54 statements)
69%	24%	7%	13

Comments from survey:

Again, the fourth statement could be incorporated into the other three.

Statement 4: Could be but will need to be fostered.

Advocacy groups cool name for special interest groups

- **Other comments**

CCT comments, 2/12/08

Add new bullet: *Most residents will vote in each election.*

Add new bullet: *Increasing numbers of residents will do volunteer work that contributes to the well-being of the region.*

Survey comments:

“meaningful involvement” in COOK COUNTY ... ILLINOIS? Who are you kidding?

All these are nice statements--but the bottom line is that the elected officials are the ones who are entrusted, by citizens, to enact public policy and shape the region’s destiny. I believe it is important to listen, but sometime the vocal few have to be weighed against the silent majority. DuPage County looks the way it does because this is the way the people here wanted it to look. The bottom line is that local elected officials have their pulse on the wants and needs of their communities better than anyone else and are accountable to those communities more than anyone else.

Combine and strengthen first and third points.

excellent work on these four

I don’t follow the second item above. Sounds like they will be involved in a process that will be involving.

I think it’s important to talk about opportunities to participate.

It is very difficult to get a local village official to think beyond his corporate limits. What do you think you can do to change him or her?

more like “residents will continue to take pride in shaping their neighborhoods and the region”

must include contributions from all income levels. Often, those with the most income have the greatest voice in American society-it will take extra effort to make sure this is not the case.

never happened before?

Planning processes will try ever harder to bring a higher level of participation into civic dialogue from people of color and those who are low wealth than ever before.

Read the book *The Geography of Nowhere*, that author gets it.

Residents are too busy trying to run two income households to take care of their kids let alone get into civic projects. Volunteerism is at an all time low.

See previous comment

Should address the on-going need to educate leaders and citizens as to the importance of the planning process. The public is disengaged from local governing and only engages if taxes are raised or a NIMBY issue. Otherwise there is little to no interest. There is a lot of marketing to be done between now and 2040 to "sell" government to people.

The regions residents are not involved now and will not be involved in 2040.

This covers so much, it will be very hard to accomplish w/ equity and fairness.

This is truly a "chicken/egg" goal. The community must support the type of leader that in fact encourages civic pride thru participation and not have elections controlled by special interest groups.

We need a goal to continually and more effectively inform residents and offer new ways to participate in public policy involvement.

We need to utilize all types of technology to reach out and communicate with our constituents/residents.

Wouldn't it be great if by making #1, 3 and 4 policies in the regional plan we could actually force people to participate? #2 is the only one we have control over and the only one that should be kept. May be able to craft #3 into an action item: "Local leaders will reach out to residents of the region to keep them informed and engaged in the decision-making process."

You are hoping for too much for civic involvement from residents on this scale. Is it just the elitists? What one expects from the gamut of elected officials is civic leadership and that is what is most important.

Talk about a strong, independent media that holds leaders accountable to the people and thoughtfully engages with issues of importance.

Overall survey comments:

Although I understand the process that led to the development of these statements, CMAP needs to take back some control and craft statements that can be IMPLEMENTED. So that when a local gov't is taking an action, they can say decisively that the action does/does not support the goals of the Regional Plan and does/does not contribute to the implementation of the Plan.

BUILD MORE ROADS TO MAKE DRIVING PLACES EASIER

Expertise is far too limiting. If an open question I would answer Management.

Good Luck!

Having served on both regional and local planning commissions I wish you good luck. What I have seen is not encouraging. Unless we can get state legislation in place to strengthen the regional planning process, I don't see us rising above the "tribal" mentality under which we are currently operating. So long as municipalities continue to drive the process, I don't see much hope. You need to figure out how to outmaneuver the municipal lobby in Springfield. This is difficult as there is usually only a small number of legislators that are impacted by sprawl at any given time. You need to somehow get everyone to see that we are all in the same boat and it is taking on water.

I can not get over the timing of this considering the conversation I had at work just yesterday!

I know my comments appear to be cynical, but having been a city planner, land planner, landscape architect and an alumnus of NIPC for the last 46 years in the region, I have been a part of the regions development and have tried to lead and educate which hasn't been easy.

I recognize that as a home rule state, Illinois' municipalities have great power. But that imbalance is the source of the region's problems. CMAP greatest challenge -- which it needs to start in this 2040 process -- is to cut a New Deal for municipalities and schools systems in which counties assume more planning through their taxing authority (which can include services competitive with cities). Municipalities, in turn, must have the incentives to improve their services' efficiency by, in effect, providing services better than the counties or its public-private partners. To the extent that CMAP does not confront this service imbalance and offer a New Deal, is the extent to which it will not succeed.

I sure hope the future of our community isn't taken lightly and that it is well thought out and great measures taken to preserve the integrity and high quality of life for generations to come.

I would like to receive updates and future surveys. thank you.

I'm already involved.

If Chicago gets the olympics, it would drastically change the implementation time table of this survey.

In general, the vision statements are great but they all sound very much utopia like and somewhat vague. There is not much to disagree with on the vision statements except to ask whether or not some of these visions are realistic? Also, vision statemets should also include overcoming challenges that already exist.

It's a good effort so far. keep as many leaders as possible involved in this process.

Keep everything short; too long tends to bore readers (like legislators) and tends to planning-speak.

My view of these kinds of complex planning processes is that less is more. Many of my comments above are aimed at consolidating statements. However, there are still a lot of overlapping statements and ideas in the above.

Overall though my comments may not indicate such, I think it's very nice. I think it's a nice effort. I just think it needs to be a little more specific and include statements that feel like they have a bit more substance. Sometimes it feels a little flowery and disposable and makes me wonder if the same were said when the 2010, 2020, 2030 plans were being developed. Will it say so again in a 2050 plan? Probably wouldn't have to if we had done even a 10th of what might have been included in those plans. Does anyone go back and measure what happened against past vision statements? If the answer is nothing and the results have been the same then please redirect the process to something tangible that will have actual visions/goals to be met with measurable results. Looking at the past and its successes and failures should be directing this process and where we go from here. Maybe it has, but that's tough for me to say or know really. Thank you.

Overall, many of these statements are too broad to mean much or be very useful.

Plan does not adequately address the funding or infrastructure needs to support the expected (idealized) growth.

Entire plan needs to be stated in more simple language so that the general public goes away with at least a basic understanding of the intent. Remember, the average American only understands to the 9th grade level. Use less adjectives and more straight talk.

Please re-state these as goals, not visions! "Vision Statements" should be banned as they lead the public to think that this is what we as planners see will happen in the next so-many years. Such an umpression ruins our individual credibilty and brings ridicule to our profession. Present your report as a problem identification report and analysis of available options, in other words, a plan for action, not a vision of utopia!

Something needs to be done to limit sprawl to the far out reaches of the counties.

Still need to make the language more specifice as possible to the Chicago area and not flowerly language that can easily fits every other place of large size in the US.

Thank you and keep up the good work!!!

Thanks for the work.

Thanks. What you are seeking is a bit murky. We want to whole-heartedly agree with all you suggest above, but the practical reality is that many of these axioms will never receive buy-in from the varied constituencies throughout the region. We need to be re-examining the idea of shared property and sales tax revenues due to the inequity of real estate valuations and sub-regional buying power.

The region's declining infrastructure needs to be addressed in this as well.

The vision statements sound great, very promising. It will be interesting to see them unfold. Some of them seem much easier said than done.

Topics and outline are moving forward very nicely with this new initiative.

Very optomistic, we dont have the leadership in this state or city.

While some of this is good, overall the statements seem simply to unrealistic to provide any meaningful, credible guidance. We live in a society that is in big trouble as the result of little or no planning, poor infrastructure investment, terrible education and a reliance on pure capitalism that has poisoned the future. This plan COULD be an opportunity to promote radical change. Instead, it sounds like it largely accepts an promotes the status quo.

The three themes are pretty vague--"quality of life" could relate to any of the other issues (e.g., if you're unemployed, you don't have a good quality of life, or if you're breathing polluted air, or if your neighborhood is a police state, you don't have good quality of life). I didn't pick "education and workforce development" because I think those are two separate issues, and I refuse to buy into the idea that schools exist to train good workers. Schools exist to create engaged, committed citizens who are concerned with the welfare of all. That's paramount to me, whether stated as equity, sustainability, or quality of life.