



**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62706**

**ROD R. BLAGOJEVICH
GOVERNOR**

September 12, 2007

Carole L. Brown
Chairman of the Chicago Transit Authority
Office of the Board
567 W. Lake St., 2nd Floor
Chicago, IL 60661

James Reilly
Chairman of the Regional Transportation Authority
RTA Administrative Offices
175 W. Jackson Blvd, Suite 1550
Chicago, IL 60604

Dear Ms. Brown and Mr. Reilly:

Mass transit is critical to the economic success and way of life in the Chicago area. I recognize the widespread negative impact posed by the shortfalls both the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) and Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) must resolve. As I have said before, while I oppose the plan to increase the sales tax on people, I am in strong support of State and local assistance to keep mass transit reliable and affordable.

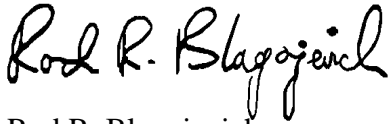
Though the General Assembly has not yet approved a state mass transit funding package, we're working with lawmakers and believe such a resolution is not far off. In order to avoid the fare increases, lay-offs and service cuts your agencies vowed to implement by the end of this week, and to provide lawmakers more time to reach consensus on a long-term funding solution, I am offering to accelerate State funding to provide an immediate \$37 million to the RTA this month, which will provide \$24 million more for the CTA immediately.

In the budget passed by the General Assembly last month, \$31 million of the \$37 million RTA Fare Subsidy paid by the Illinois Department of Transportation is designated for the CTA; but only \$7 million of the CTA's portion is scheduled to be paid by December 31, 2007. By advancing the full fiscal year subsidy, the CTA will immediately receive the \$7

million it is counting on for this calendar year, and an additional \$24 million in funds to continue meeting the needs of commuters while the General Assembly finalizes and passes a longer-term funding plan.

I urge you to accept my offer and postpone fare hikes, service cuts and lay-offs that would be detrimental to those who rely on mass transit in the Chicagoland area. I look forward to your support as we work toward a long-term mass transit funding solution for our region and the entire state that doesn't hurt taxpayers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rod R. Blagojevich". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "R".

Rod R. Blagojevich
Governor

Cc: Darrell Jefferson, President ATU Local 241
Rick Harris, President ATU Local 308