



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

**ROD R. BLAGOJEVICH
GOVERNOR**

November 5, 2007

The Honorable Emil Jones
The Honorable Michael Madigan
The Honorable Frank Watson
The Honorable Tom Cross

Dear Legislative Leaders:

I am writing to invite you to a leaders' meeting in my office in Springfield at 10:00 a.m. tomorrow morning. The purpose of the meeting is to continue discussions on a long-term transit solution for the Chicago area and an infrastructure bill for the entire state.

Last week, in order to prevent the RTA and CTA from cutting service, increasing fares and laying off workers, I provided the transit agencies with an additional \$27 million to keep their operations running through the end of the year.

But the events of last week made clear there is no consensus among legislators on how to provide a long-term solution to the RTA and CTA. What was clear, however, was that a significant number of legislators of both parties and both chambers want to address the state's critical infrastructure needs together with the needs of the RTA and CTA. That certainly is a reasonable approach and one that creates a bipartisan opportunity to pass a capital bill and find a long-term solution for mass transit in the Chicago area.

Now is the time to seize this opportunity. But to do that, we must all be willing to come together, put past differences aside, and work in good faith to solve these problems and meet these challenges. People across Illinois are counting on us to get the job done without further delay. Let's avoid another transit crisis and make the needed investments in our aging infrastructure.

I look forward to seeing you all tomorrow.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rod Blagojevich".

Rod R. Blagojevich
Governor