



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

**ROD R. BLAGOJEVICH
GOVERNOR**

November 2, 2007

Dear Members of the House of Representatives:

Today I authorized a direct grant to the CTA and Pace for the \$27 million they said they need to maintain operations until the end of the year. The short-term funding is not a loan – it is new money we are providing them to keep serving their riders. In the meantime, the four legislative leaders and I will continue our negotiations to find a permanent, long-term solution. There is general consensus that a mass transit plan for the Chicagoland region should be passed in conjunction with a capital plan that would meet infrastructure needs across the state. The leaders believe that this can be completed in the near future.

It is clear, based on my conversations with other legislative leaders, that the proposal contained in Senate Bill 572 that would fund mass transit through an increase in the regional sales tax does not have enough legislative support to pass – in fact, it already failed the last time it was voted on. In addition, a large number of members of both chambers have indicated that they will not support any plan to fund Chicago area mass transit agencies unless the infrastructure needs of their own communities are also funded. Just yesterday eight Democratic members of the State Senate signed a letter expressing their opposition to voting on a transit bill without also taking action on a capital bill – an opinion echoed by Senate President Emil Jones, Senate Minority Leader Frank Watson and House Minority Leader Tom Cross.

There is no question that we need to address the mass transit issue and it needs to be done quickly. The leaders have told me that we need more time to complete negotiations on a long term solution and a statewide capital bill. If the CTA and PACE accept the \$27 million in short-term assistance I offered them today, transit riders in the Chicago area will be able to continue relying on the service they need while we pass a plan that will ultimately result in stronger and safer roads, bridges, schools and mass transit systems across Illinois.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rod Blagojevich".

Rod R. Blagojevich
Governor