



FILED

NOV 28 '07 -9 10 PM

SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

2007-402

SECRETARY OF STATE, INDEX DEPT.

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) is the financial oversight and regional planning body for the three public transit operators in northeastern Illinois: the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA), Metra commuter rail, and Pace suburban bus; and

WHEREAS, the RTA is an important public asset that, according to the RTA, generates an annual economic impact of more than \$12 billion to the State of Illinois; and

WHEREAS, approximately two million riders per day use the CTA, Metra commuter rail, or Pace suburban bus; and

WHEREAS, strengthening Illinois' transit system will enhance residents' quality of life by reducing pollution as well as traffic congestion; and

WHEREAS, according to the CTA, revenues to support transit are not keeping up with increased maintenance, repair, and transit costs potentially necessitating additional state funding; and

WHEREAS, the CTA asserts that without additional funding by January 20, 2008, it is prepared to raise cash fares as high as \$3.25 for rail passengers who pay cash, cut 81 bus routes, and layoff 2,400 employees; and

WHEREAS, Metra officials have warned riders to expect fares to increase up to 30 % if additional funding is not received by the State of Illinois; and

WHEREAS, according to the RTA, without additional funding, Metra will face a \$40 million deficit in 2008; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature has been unable to reach a funding solution that is acceptable to its membership; and

WHEREAS, a capital plan will focus resources in core areas including roads, schools, bridges, and economic development; and

WHEREAS, a proposed capital plan would leverage additional federal and local funds for infrastructure needs; and

WHEREAS, a proposed capital plan would support many jobs statewide;

THEREFORE, pursuant to Article IV, Section 5 (b) of the Illinois Constitution of 1970, I hereby call and convene the 95th General Assembly, in duly constituted quorums capable of conducting business, in a special session to commence on November 29, 2007, at 10:00 a.m., to consider a bill that provides for long-term funding for the RTA, the CTA, Metra, and Pace as well as to consider a capital plan and a funding source for a capital plan.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Rod Blagojevich", is written over a horizontal line.

ROD BLAGOJEVICH
Governor

Dated: November 28, 2007