



CHICAGO METROPOLIS 2020

Chicago Metropolis 2020 is a nonprofit organization created by The Commercial Club of Chicago in 1999 to advocate for better regional planning and smart investments to promote the region's long-term health. Chicago Metropolis 2020's unifying vision is that the region's 272 municipalities (and some 1,200 units of local government) must make the kinds of informed choices that will make the region attractive and economically competitive 10, 50, and 100 years from now.

Regional Learning

In 2001, Chicago Metropolis 2020 published its first Metropolis Index, a progress report on the region's challenges and opportunities. The 2002 edition of the Metropolis Index – our annual assessment of the state of the region – updates many of last year's measurements and also adds some new measures to reflect changes in our perspective on economic and social conditions in the six-county Chicago region.

The Index charts how the region is doing in reaching twelve shared goals, which were identified in 2001 during an extensive process involving public meetings and opinion polls. Those goals address our regional economy, transportation and land use, housing, community life, education and natural environment. The Metropolis Index is intended to give residents of the region benchmarks to assess how we are doing, and to help them consider what must be done to sustain our status as a globally competitive region. Chicago Metropolis 2020 believes we must think -as a region in order to create a better life for everyone.

Metropolis Plan

The Chicago metropolitan region is expected to gain 1.6 million people between today and 2030. This extraordinary increase in population raises many questions:

- Where will these new residents live?
- Where will they work?
- What stresses will they place on the transportation systems already in place?
- What land will they absorb?
- How much investment in new utilities will they require?
- What resources will they need?

These questions are currently being addressed in a piecemeal fashion. Many local governments have plans for their own communities, and some organizations have crafted plans and policies that address particular areas of interest. But there have been few efforts to take a comprehensive look at the issues for the region as a whole, to see how the pieces fit together and how the policies will look when they are applied on the ground. We believe that it is important to think in concrete terms

about how the region might look in the future after the addition of all those people and jobs. Because it is difficult for policy makers and the public to imagine what the region will look like thirty years from now, public debate about alternative futures is rare.

The Metropolis Plan for Growth and Transportation will serve as an illustrative model of the region, in which assumptions can be changed and the results examined, will greatly enhance and expand our collective capacity both to see what we want to do and to make it happen.

Housing

The Chicago region produced nearly 40,000 new single and multi-family housing units in 2001, a 20-year high. Between 1995 and 2001, multi-family development increased by 57%. This growth, however, was uneven across the region with 67% of it concentrated in Cook County. In the same period, single-family construction increased by 13%. Will County led the region with 24% of the region's single-family construction.

Despite the record-high increase in the supply of new housing units, moderate and low-income households in the Chicago region are still hard-pressed to find housing they can afford in certain communities, especially where new jobs are located.

Metropolis Principles

One of the goals of Chicago Metropolis 2020 is that all people will have access to quality affordable housing that is accessible to jobs. More than 100 business leaders in the Chicago region have signed a unique pledge, called the "Metropolis Principles," to make access to affordable housing and mass transit a significant factor when making business location decisions.

How Can You Get Involved?

- VISIT WWW.CHICAGOMETROPOLIS2020.ORG FOR UPDATES AND NEWS OF FUTURE ACTIVITIES
- CONTACT YOUR LOCAL MAYOR, STATE REPRESENTATIVE, AND STATE SENATOR TO EXPRESS SUPPORT FOR THE PRINCIPLES EXPRESSED IN *THE METROPOLIS PLAN: CHOICES FOR THE CHICAGO REGION*.
- JOIN US AS WE BEGIN THE PROCESS OF IMPLEMENTING THE POLICY CHANGES THAT WILL BREATHE LIFE INTO *THE METROPOLIS PLAN*.