



THE DUPAGE REVIEW

WHEATON, IL



GO BEARS!



- State, regional, and local transportation leaders met this past Tuesday to discuss an implementation strategy for a recently completed study on economic development initiatives and proposed transit and road infrastructure improvements for Western Access to O'Hare Airport. Participants included Secretary of Transportation Timothy Martin, RTA Chairman James Reilly, as well as representatives from the Illinois Tollway, O'Hare Airport, Metra, Pace, CTA, CMAP, as well as area mayors. Tuesday's forum, hosted by DuPage County Board Chairman Robert J. Schillerstrom, provided an opportunity for private and public sector stakeholders to comment on the latest draft of the Western O'Hare Economic Development Corridor Study. The **West O'Hare Corridor Economic Development Study** began in earnest in December, 2005. Its scope included economic development, transportation and land use impacts, and assessed population and employment data in the corridor. More importantly, it was the community outreach and corridor visioning that occurred during this planning process that mobilized all of the stakeholders to continue to work collaboratively toward the implementation of the various improvements that were outlined in the document.
- The **2007 Consolidated Plan for Housing and Community Development** took another step toward final action this past Tuesday. The plan, which is currently receiving public comment, allocates funds from the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnership (HOME), Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) and the American Dream Downpayment Initiative (ADDI). DuPage County Board Member **Kyle Gilgis** (District 3), Chairwoman of the Development Committee, notes that each of these programs provide a lifeline to those in DuPage County who are most in need. Final action on the plan is expected to take place at the next County Board meeting scheduled for Tuesday, February 13, 2007.
- With the lack of new revenue source available, and without the necessary tools to address the growing needs of the county, DuPage County announced last week that the budget passed last November would be implemented immediately. The budget includes a reduction of 174 full-time employees through a combination of layoffs and the elimination of vacant positions. Included in the number of reductions are 20 layoffs that will take place immediately at the County's Convalescent Center.
- In an effort to bring a more open discussion, as well as more transparency, to the **Emergency Telephone System Board** (ETSB), DuPage County Board Chairman Robert Schillerstrom has appointed DuPage County Board Member **Michael Connelly** as Chairman of the ETSB. One of the important issues before the ETSB is the contract adopted last September with Motorola to develop a region-wide interoperable public safety radio system, mandated by the federal government, which needs to be in place by 2013. This multi-million dollar contract will enable DuPage emergency responders to communicate better with colleagues in other counties during a crisis.

DUPAGE COUNTY BOARD

Robert J. Schillerstrom
Chairman

District 1

Yolanda Campuzano
Paul Fichtner
Donald Puchalski

District 2

Patrick O'Shea
Jeff Redick
Brien Sheahan

District 3

Thomas Bennington, Jr.
Kyle Gilgis
Michael McMahon

District 4

Grant Eckhoff
Debra Olson
Jerry McBride

District 5

Michael Connelly
James Healy
Robert Schroeder

District 6

Linda Kurzawa
Pamela Rion
James Zay, Jr.