2012
Federal Legislative Program

DuPage County, Illinois
The mission of DuPage County is to assure that DuPage County’s communities will always be desirable places to live, work, and raise families by providing innovative cost-effective services, promoting a high quality of life for all residents, and acting as a leader with its local and regional partners in anticipating issues and developing solutions.
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Legislative & Governmental Affairs Committee

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Overview

DuPage County is the second largest county in Illinois with over 900,000 residents and is comprised of 9 townships and portions of 39 municipalities. DuPage is a major employment center for northeastern Illinois, home to over 750,000 jobs as well as 16 colleges, 7 hospitals, 2 national laboratories, Argonne National Laboratory and Fermi National Accelerator, 300 miles of bikeways and 23,000 acres of forest preserve property.

County residents elect the County Board Chairman at-large plus nine other Countywide Elected Officials - the County Auditor, Clerk, Clerk of the Circuit Court, Coroner, Recorder, Regional Superintendent of Schools, Sheriff, State’s Attorney, and Treasurer. The County Board includes 18 members who are elected from six County Board Districts (three members from each district).

Core county government services include public safety and the operation of the county jail, court administration and probation, transportation, economic development and planning, public health and mental health care services, stormwater management, workforce and employment training, public works, building and permitting, zoning enforcement, the administration of elections, the operation of the convalescent center, community and senior services, emergency management, and animal control.

County leaders continue to seek opportunities to shrink the size of government in order to reduce the tax burden on county residents. Dozens of county positions have been eliminated and the recently enacted county budget reduced costs for the third consecutive year. In 2011, county government accounted for less than 3% of the average property tax bill.

For 2012, goals for county government include:

- reducing the layers and number of governmental units
- seeking partnerships with other units of government and the private sector to consolidate functions and share services
- develop innovative and more efficient ways to deliver public services.
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Support:

- **Transportation Reauthorization Bill** – After a three year delay, Congress is considering legislation to enact a new federal surface transportation program however it is unlikely that a final bill will pass until after the presidential election. To date, a revenue source has not been identified to support any expansion of the federal transportation program beyond current spending levels. Gas tax revenues that previously funded national highway programs are declining and cannot support the anticipated cost of a new program.

- **Sustainable Revenue Stream**: The current federal motor fuel tax is not able to replenish the Highway Trust Fund at adequate levels to meet the demand for transportation investments. The National Surface Transportation Infrastructure Commission estimated that the average annual capital needs for the country’s highway and transit systems will be $96 billion per year over the next few decades, but the current revenue levels will only meet 33% of that need at $32 billion per year.

While multi-modal transportation opportunities add to the quality of life for residents, the livable community/healthy roads/transit initiatives take funding away from the core transportation investment----the roads and bridges that need to be maintained and modernized to enable and enhance economic development. The advent of uncertainty in fuel prices, the subsequent demand for fuel efficient vehicles including electric vehicles, and changes in economic conditions and availability of travel mode choices has resulted in a declining revenue stream. Until we can move away from the funding model of a fixed amount of revenue per gallon of fuel consumed, funding levels will continue to decline.

A sustainable revenue stream is critical to all agencies that rely on motor fuel tax as their major source of funding when investing in transportation. But the model of a fixed amount of revenue per gallon of fuel consumed in no longer sustainable, as fuel consumption continues to decline.

Two areas that could be explored include:

- In the short term, indexing the motor fuel tax to inflation to allow for an increase in the amount of revenue as fuel prices increase
- As a long term strategy, a new funding model such as Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT), the ultimate user fee since the revenue generated is directly proportional to miles traveled.
Streamline Project Delivery: While the federalization of projects affords agencies with a substantial amount of the financial resources necessary to contract a project, it also requires additional coordination and oversight that often times works against the timely delivery of projects. For local agencies within the State of Illinois, state statutes have been enacted that allow counties and municipalities to enter into Agreements of Understanding (AOU) with the State Department of Transportation (IDOT) to construct and/or maintain highways or streets using motor fuel tax funds (MFT), or other State funds administered under MFT policies and procedures, without the approval and supervision of IDOT. The local agency must show that it is adequately organized, staffed, equipped, and financed to discharge satisfactorily such statutory requirements and duties. The State DOT and local agencies both benefit from this arrangement; the State DOT does not need to be directly involved with reviewing and approving every local agency project allowing it to better direct it’s limited staff resources and the local agencies have greater control over the programming, planning, design, construction and scheduling of their projects.

The above process does not apply to projects funded in whole or in part with federal funds. Once federal funds are allocated to any phase of a project, the entire project and process is subject to federal requirements. In Illinois, this means that the State DOT, and to a lesser extent the FHWA, must be directly involved in the review and approval of the planning, design, land acquisition and construction phases of a project. Depending on the complexity of the project this additional oversight and coordination may add a considerable amount of time to the project development and delivery process with, at times, minimal improvement in the overall quality of the project.

Federal procedures should allow for local agencies to enter into similar AOU’s for the development and implementation of federal projects with only minimal Federal/State oversight. The extent of Federal/State involvement would depend on the complexity of the environmental document (Categorical Exclusions, Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement) and phase of a project (preliminary engineering, design, land acquisition and/or construction).

Funding: DuPage County is seeking federal funding of a number of High Priority Projects (HPP) that would alleviate traffic congestion and enhance public safety (see attached FY 13 Appropriation Requests & Map section).
Western Access - As part of the 2005 (SAFETEA-LU) Federal Transportation Bill, the U.S. Congress identified the Elgin O’Hare-Western Bypass as a project of national and regional significance, one of only a dozen such projects nationwide. The Act authorized $140 million in funds to begin development of the project that includes a 120 square mile service area with transportation, environmental and demographic impacts to numerous communities and counties in northeastern Illinois. Completion of this project will sustain the area’s global competitiveness, promote business retention and create new jobs, as well as complement the multi-billion infrastructure improvements underway at O’Hare International Airport.

It is estimated that 65,000 new jobs will be created as a result of the project and the Gross Regional Product (GRP) for DuPage County alone will increase by over $3 billion per year by 2015 and over $10 billion by 2030. With the new facility and the development that is likely to be stimulated, it is estimated that municipal tax revenues in this area will increase more than $28 million annually by 2040. Additionally, more than $750 million in Federal, State and Local tax revenue is expected to be generated over the project construction period. The project is expected to have regionally significant impact on travel efficiency with estimates of travel delay savings of more than $145 million annually by 2040.

In 2011, the Illinois State Toll Highway Authority adopted Move Illinois, a fifteen year capital program that includes $3.1 billion towards construction of the Elgin-O’Hare Western Access roadway. With this significant financial investment by the Tollway, a shortfall of $300 million remains to finance this project of national significance. DuPage County requests support from Congress and the U.S. Department of Transportation to fill this remaining funding gap to ensure the project moves forward as scheduled.

Closeout of Two Superfund sites – After investing decades of effort and over $500 million, the massive cleanup of radiological materials from an eight mile long response action across western DuPage County is almost complete. Work remains at only two Superfund Sites located in West Chicago; the Kress Creek/West Branch Site and the Residential Site.

This massive cleanup project was initially funded by a company called Tronox, a spinoff of the former Kerr McGee Corporation that was absorbed in a buyout by Anadarko Oil. In late 2009, Tronox filed for bankruptcy and the U.S. Justice Department filed suit for among other items, creating a fraudulent company in order to abandon environmental liabilities. While the litigation is pending, both EPA and Justice have worked cooperatively with the
participating local entities (DuPage County, West Chicago, Warrenville, & the Forest Preserve District) to secure funding and to continue the remediation-restoration process. The only portion of the project yet to receive funding is an area along a heavily traveled highway (Illinois Route 59) that still requires remediation.

DuPage County requests an allocation of $3.7 million in additional Superfund monies in 2012 to finish the cleanup; ensuring the health and safety of thousands of local residents and removing from the federal inventory two sites from the Superfund list (see map attached to this document).

- **Reauthorization of Workforce Investment Act (WIA)** - The entire budget for the DuPage County Workforce Development Division (WDD) and Workforce Board located at the workNet DuPage Career Center in Lisle, are supported by the federal funds made available under the Workforce Investment Act (WIA). Should Congress fail to reauthorize WIA or annually appropriate workforce development funding, all services would be terminated for the thousands of unemployed clients the county serves. Services offered by workNet DuPage include workshops, job fairs, use of a resource room, on-site interviews, individual career counseling, job listings, training programs, and scholarships for individuals to enhance vocational and occupational skills.

The federal Workforce Investment Act was enacted in 1998 with an original five-year lifespan. Since 2004, Congress has passed one year continuances. It is vitally important that Congress pass WIA Reauthorization to ensure continuance of the federal funds made available for retraining and education efforts. Reauthorization is being supported nationally by the National Association of Workforce Boards, the National Workforce Alliance, and the Community College Association. Within Illinois, the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity has taken an active role in supporting reauthorization efforts. Additionally, reauthorization is supported by the Illinois Workforce Partnership (the association comprised of representatives from the 26 workforce areas across the state) and the Chicago Jobs Council (see attached WIA section).

- **Community Development Block Grant Program** - DuPage County distributes millions of dollars annually in CDBG funds to support local non-profit agencies and municipal programs that directly benefit the county’s elderly, disabled, families in crisis, and homeless population. Over the past two years, Congress has reduced funding for CDBG by 27% ($4.3 million to $3.3 million) yet CDBG remains one of
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the few programs that return tax dollars sent to Washington back to our local communities.

Considering the strain already placed on non-profit agencies due to the state’s fiscal crisis, any further reduction of CDBG funding would cause many local agencies the county relies on to deliver vital services to cease operations. DuPage County supports continued funding of CDBG at present (or restored) funding levels (see attached CDBG section).

- **Tax-Exempt Pension Bonds Proposal – New Law** – Per state statute, DuPage County participates in the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund (IMRF) pension program. In 2008, IMRF pension losses resulting from the financial markets crash exceeded 30%, causing County unfunded liabilities to more than double to over $100 million. Statutorily, these losses must be made up by the County as the employer, thus increasing pension costs by an estimated 73% over the next five years. Combined with escalating employee health insurance costs, these costs will exceed natural revenue growth creating significant operational problems for county government. Although bond financing could be utilized to meet pension costs, bonds for this purpose are currently not tax-exempt. Tax-exempt pension bonds would be more attractive with lower interest rates (4.5% vs. 7%), saving units of local governments (and states) millions of dollars. Federal approval of tax-exempt pension bonds would provide a substantially cheaper alternative for the county and other governmental entities to reduce their unfunded liability cost pressures versus eliminating programs or reducing the county’s workforce in order to meet pension obligations.

- **Approval of DOE Easement** – The DuPage Airport Authority (DAA) is seeking approval of a 320 foot easement over the outer edge of Fermilab property in order to construct a rail spur to connect the DuPage Business Center to the existing Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) rail line. Acquisition of this easement from the U.S. Department of Energy is critical to the future success of the DAA’s 450 acre business park located in West Chicago. Fermilab, a 6,800 acre facility and a valued regional asset, would not be adversely impacted by the acquisition of this very small rail easement to an existing rail line.

DuPage County supports the attainment of this easement that will stimulate development at the DuPage Business Center, resulting in the creation of thousands of jobs for our region.
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- **Internet Sales Tax** – The Marketplace Fairness Act provides states with the authority to collect existing state and local sales and use taxes from online retailers in order to “level the playing field” for bricks and mortar establishments (Main Street businesses). Unless the current collection system is corrected, many small businesses will close due to their inability to compete, costing our communities jobs and lost revenues.

  DuPage County supports the imposition of an internet sales tax subject to full assurances by the State of Illinois that sales tax proceeds will be distributed equitably and would include the collection of locally (imposed) sales taxes.

**Oppose:**

- **Heavier Weight Trucks** – DuPage County joins other organizations such as the Coalition Against Bigger Trucks, in opposition to language that may be included in the Transportation Reauthorization Bill to permit longer combination vehicles, expanded use of triple-trailer trucks, and heavier 97,000 pound single trucks, to traverse our roads and bridges.

  The weight limit on interstates and arterials was already increased to 80,000 pounds several years ago. Further increasing truck weight and length limits will result in a further deterioration of the nation’s infrastructure at a time when insufficient funds exist to ensure the safety of the traveling public.

**Appropriations:**

- **FY 13 Federal Appropriation Requests** – DuPage County is seeking Congressional support of a number of vital public infrastructure projects in the areas of Transportation, Stormwater, Public Works, and Law Enforcement (see attached FY 13 Appropriation Requests section).

- **FY 13 Title X Budget** – The President’s proposed FY 2013 federal budget deletes all funding of the Title X Uranium/Thorium Reimbursement program. An estimated $10.6 million in Title X claims were anticipated as part of the ongoing cleanup of the Rare Earths Facility (REF) located in West Chicago and the remaining portions of the DuPage River yet to be restored (Tronox sites). DuPage County supports the restoration of Title X funding.
TRANSPORTATION AND TRAIL PROJECTS

**Elgin-O’Hare Expressway/West By-Pass (priority #1 for congressional district 6)**
*Congressional District: 6*
*Cost: $300M*  
*Scope: New Regional Facility*  
*Description:* Project was initiated by the Illinois Department of Transportation and received partial funding ($140M) as a Project of National Significance in the previous Transportation Bill. This project is a new facility which will provide regional access to a new west terminal at O’Hare International Airport. The Illinois State Toll Highway Authority will be the lead agency for design and construction of the project. $3.1B of the project cost is included in the Tollway’s Move Illinois capital plan.

**IL 38 (Roosevelt Road) at County Farm Road (priority #2 for congressional district 6)**
*Congressional District: 6*
*Cost: $9M*  
*Scope: Intersection Improvement*  
*Description:* Intersection improvement to provide improved safety and enhanced mobility for emergency vehicles, access to a local shopping center and high school, and the County Complex.

**Gary Avenue, Great Western Trail (GWT) to Lies Road**
*Congressional District: 6*
*Cost: $2.2M*  
*Scope: Multi-Use Trail*  
*Description:* Funding to construct a multi-use side path along Gary Avenue from the Great Western Trail to Lies Road, connecting an existing regional trail (GWT) with several destination points (village hall, regional shopping center).

**75th Street, Adams to Plainfield (priority project for congressional district 13)**
*Congressional District: 13*
*Cost: $12M*  
*Scope: Capacity/Additional Lanes*  
*Description:* In conjunction with the local community (City of Darien) this proposed improvement will provide additional lanes along 75th Street and intersection improvements consisting of double left turn lanes and separate right turn lanes at Cass Avenue and Plainfield Road to improve safety and enhance mobility.

**Southern Trail, Burr Ridge South Extension**
*Congressional District: 13*
*Cost: $1.6M*  
*Scope: Multi-Use Trail*  
*Description:* This proposed project would extend the Main Stem of the Southern DuPage County Regional Trail along Madison Street south to 83rd Street providing an additional connection to the Village of Burr Ridge municipal bikeway system.
DuPage County FY 13 Appropriation Requests

(Transportation & Trail Projects continued)

**Fabyan Parkway, IL 38 to County Line (priority project for congressional district 14)**
*Congressional District: 14*
*Cost: $15.5M  Scope: Capacity/Additional Lanes*
*Description: Additional lanes along Fabyan Parkway to match the proposed intersection improvement at IL 38 (Roosevelt Road) and to match the existing cross section in Kane County to improve safety and to enhance mobility.*

**Winfield Road Carriage Path**
*Congressional District: 14*
*Cost: $1.4M  Scope: Pedestrian Path*
*Description: This project would widen and pave the existing Winfield Road carriage path for approximately two miles from Roosevelt Road south to Butterfield Road providing a connection to the Village of Winfield municipal bikeway plan on the north and the West Branch DuPage River Trail, the Illinois Prairie Path Aurora Branch and the regional trials proposed for the St. James Farm Forest Preserve on the south.*

*(for projects listed above, see map attached)*
STORMWATER PROJECTS

Klein Creek Watershed Project (Armstrong Park)
Congressional District: 6
Cost: The total estimate cost for the project is $8.5M
Description: During the September 2008 flood event, it was reported by the Village of Carol Stream that approximately 267 residences were affected by flood damages due to over-bank stream flooding, sanitary sewer back-ups, and/or sump-pump failures. A severe flood event also occurred in July 2010, which caused extensive damages.

The majority of the damages that occur in Carol Stream are bounded by Armstrong Park to the north, Thunderbird Trail to the south, Silverleaf Boulevard to the west and Blackhawk Drive to the east. This area, which is referred to in the Klein Creek Watershed Plan Addendum (2010) as the “damage center,” is a dense residential community and a portion of it lies within the floodplain of Klein Creek. In addition to residential damages, street flooding and closures occur, as well as sanitary sewer back-ups. The principal cause of this flooding is the inadequate capacity of the natural channel to convey runoff. In an effort to alleviate flooding issues in the Village, nine alternatives are presented in this report.

The Klein Creek Flood Mitigation Project, the "preferred alternative" in Carol Stream will consist of a two reservoir system that will operate when Klein Creek experiences increased elevations. Reservoir 1 (the Gravity Reservoir) will take in water directly from Klein Creek, once the Gravity Reservoir reaches a specific elevation, the water from the Gravity Reservoir will pump into Reservoir 2 (the Pump Storage Reservoir), the much larger reservoir. This will detain the majority of the water and release it safely back into Klein Creek, bypassing the majority of the Armstrong Park neighborhood.

This project is currently in the design and permitting stage. The design team is nearing the permit submittal stage for this project. The current schedule for this project is to begin site demolition during the winter months with construction of the reservoir anticipated in summer 2012.

Water Quality Improvement & Streambank Stabilization of the West Branch of the DuPage River
Congressional District: 14
Cost: The funding gap DuPage County Stormwater Management would request is $1.8M
Description: The DuPage County Board recently passed the acceptance of the West Branch DuPage River Watershed Plan Addendum (the Plan). The Plan addresses flooding in the City of Warrenville along the West Branch of the DuPage River as a threat to health and human safety. In addition to flooding, the Plan also addresses water quality improvements necessary under EPA guidelines. The preferred alternative noted in the plan which includes both flood reduction and water quality improvements has an estimated total cost just over $18M. Currently there is funding obligated through various local participating agencies, however, there is a gap in the funding of $4.2M. Of this
$4.2M, $1.8M would go toward the water quality improvement and streambank stabilization noted in the plan for an overall watershed benefit.

Watershed benefits include a reduction in flood damages and an improvement of the main stem West Branch DuPage River through stream enhancements such as stabilization and the establishment of native vegetation. Watershed improvements are made in a holistic manner by including river restoration in an effort to improve water quality as part of a larger conveyance and flood protection project. The inclusion of these water quality improvements will also provide partnership opportunities with the Forest Preserve and other public entities so that the improvements can be performed over a larger scale and at a reduced cost.

**Bower Elementary School Berm Construction and Flap Gates Re-Installation**

**Congressional District: 14**

**Cost:** The total cost for all items related to raise the berm is $850K.

**Description:** Bower Elementary School in Warrenville, IL flooded due to the overtopping of the protective berm located along the west bank of the West Branch DuPage River and absence of backflow preventers on the interior drainage system. The low point of the protective berm has settled to elevation 690.89’ or approximately 1.1’ below the current base flood elevation. Estimates of damage from the 2008 flood event exceeded $1M and estimates have not been finalized for any damage that occurred in the 2010 flood event.

The proposed solution would raise the Bower Elementary School Berm approximately 2.0-ft above the floodplain elevation. The 2.0-ft was chosen to allow for berm settlement and a reasonable factor of safety for freeboard. In addition to the re-constructed berm, it is advised that the school district re-install the flap gates in the interior drainage system. These were not present during the September 2008 floods, which added to the damages experienced by the school. Without the presence of the flap gates, the berm construction will not protect the school. An aggressive maintenance schedule for the flap gates should be developed and adhered to by the school district to prevent failure during future flooding events.

*(for projects listed above, see map attached)*
PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS – INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

**Liberty Park Drainage Improvement Project (priority project #1 for District 13)**

*Congressional District: 13*

*Funding Request: $6.5M (project can be completed in phases)*

*Description:* In 2010 the Westmont Water Surface Protection District (WWSPD) formally dissolved. The purpose of the WWSPD was to provide flood protection for an area comprised of over 1500 residential and commercial properties known as Liberty Park. Liberty Park contains properties in Downers Grove, Westmont, and areas of unincorporated DuPage County. This area remains one of the most flood prone areas of DuPage County requiring a major infrastructure investment. The storm sewer, detention basins and ditches throughout this region will require complete replacement to eliminate the flooding experienced during all levels and frequencies of storm events. This project will also include the buyout and demolition of some of the worst flooded structures. DuPage County, Westmont and Downers Grove are working jointly on this project as it affects all three areas.

*Location:* 39th Street to north, Cass Ave. to east, Naperville Road to south, Cumnor Road to west.

**Rosewood Sanitary Sewer Improvement Project**

*Congressional District: 13*

*Funding Request: $750K*

*Description:* The Rosewood Development consists of over 3,800 residents living in condominiums and multi-family apartments. This development is serviced by a sanitary sewer that was originally installed in the late 1970’s and has begun to deteriorate with the possibility of sewer back-ups. This project will reconstruct new sanitary sewer lines in some areas and rehabilitate others. This project is critical to the residents in order to provide a functioning sanitary sewer to a densely populated area.

*Location:* west of Route 83, south of 91st street, and east of Clarendon Hills Road.

**Nordic Park Wastewater Treatment Plant & Collection System Improvement Project (priority project #1 for district 6)**

*Congressional District: 6*

*Funding Request: $3.5M*

*Description:* The Nordic Park Treatment Plant services over 2,000 residents and has been in operation since the 1960’s. The plant is in need of renovation and improvements to increase plant efficiency and to continue to meet IEPA regulations, reduce operational costs and to provide more plant capacity for future development. This project will also reconfigure the existing sanitary sewer collection system to eliminate frequent surcharges from undersized sanitary sewers. This project will have a substantial environmental benefit for the region upon completion.

*Location:* service area is Irving Park road to the north, Bloomingdale road to the south, Route 53 to the east, and Medinah road to the west.
DuPage County FY 13 Appropriation Requests

(Public Works Projects continued)

Glen Ellyn Heights Water System Improvement Project
Congressional District: 6
Funding Request: $1M
Description: The Glen Ellyn Heights Water System services a population of over 2,500 residents in areas of unincorporated DuPage County. This system was constructed in the early 1950’s and is experiencing operational and maintenance problems that are overwhelming the aging infrastructure. Many users experience low water volume and pressure due to the undersized system and frequent water main breaks. This project will provide critical upgrades to the existing water system resulting in much improved water service to existing customers and allowing for future expansion of Lake Michigan water to areas that are currently serviced by private wells.
Location: service area bordered by Busch Road to the west, River Drive to the east, 1st Avenue to the south and North Avenue to the north.

(for projects listed above, see map attached)
DuPage County FY 13 Appropriation Requests

LAW ENFORCEMENT

DuPage Alliance to Combat Crime with Technology (A.C.C.T.) Initiative
Congressional District: Countywide
Funding Request: $1,355,000
Description: Since Fiscal Year 2010, DuPage County has sought funds for the DuPage County Alliance to Combat Crime with Technology (A.C.C.T) Initiative.

The goal of the A.C.C.T. Initiative is to offer alternative methods to combat crime, specifically domestic violence. Lead by the Sheriff’s Office, this unique collaboration brings together the technology needs and enhancements of the Sheriff’s Office, Probation, and State’s Attorney into one alliance unified in combating crime.

The enhanced technology proposed in this project include the use of GPS and SCRAM (Secure Continuous Alcohol Monitor) equipment for increased victim safety as well as the tracking accountability of offenders in cases of domestic violence. Additionally, the funding will go towards the creation of an interface that will not only centrally locate all current and past information so it can be easily accessible by the attorneys, but will also allow the State’s Attorney’s Office to keep statistics regarding the victims of physical and sexual abuse.

With funding for the A.C.C.T. Initiative, DuPage County will not only improve the outcome of victim safety and increase offender accountability, but will also be able to provide a sentencing alternative incarceration in the County jail. This will lead to a reduction in the jail population and decreased taxpayer dollars being spent on housing for these offenders.

Proposed Budget:

Sheriff’s Office: $1,140,000 for 200 portable radios (at $5,700 each) mandated by the Federal Communications Commission
Purpose: Enables improved response time to incidents of crime and disaster scenes. Provides quicker aid to injured parties and a substantial improvement to public safety.

Probation Department: $190,000 for GPS devices and SCRAM (Secure Continuous Remote Alcohol Monitor) devices for victims and indigent offenders.
Purpose: Increased victim safety and offender accountability.

State’s Attorney’s Office: $25,000 for integrated case management system
Purpose: Eliminates duplicate entry therefore maximizing time. Improves tracking of investigations and cases to better combat criminal activities.
Children’s Advocacy Center  
Congressional District: Countywide  
Funding Request: $272,200  

Description: As a special unit within the DuPage County State’s Attorney’s Office, the Children’s Advocacy Center located in Wheaton, Illinois, investigates and processes all cases of child sexual and severe physical abuse throughout the County and also works with children who witness violent crimes. The priority of the Children’s Advocacy Center is to ensure that justice is met while providing an avenue for a healthy recovery for victims.

The current Children’s Advocacy Center does not meet the needs of the children and families affected by child abuse. As a result, the County has developed plans to move the Children’s Advocacy Center to a new structure on the County Campus that will have sufficient capacity to address a family’s comprehensive needs. The new 16,000 square-foot facility will offer a welcoming and warm atmosphere including private interview rooms.

Additionally, the new construction will house the Family Center that provides parent education mandated by the courts, mediation, supervised visitation, neutral exchange, transitional exchange, and the PEACE Program conflict resolution group. To date, county funds, court fees, and grants have funded the majority of the construction costs, estimated at $5.2 million.

Location: DuPage County Administration Complex

(see attached for additional details)
Two Superfund Sites

ILLENOIS ROUTE 59 REMEDIATION
$3.7 MILLION
( NOT BUDGETED)

BOWER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL REMEDIATION
$2.0 MILLION
(BUDGETED FOR 2012 CONSTRUCTION)

MCDOWELL GROVE REMEDIATION
$17.7 MILLION
(BUDGETED FOR 2012 CONSTRUCTION)

ROUTE 59
EDGEWOOD WALK
JOLIET STREET

WEST BRANCH DUPAGE RIVER

RAYMOND DRIVE
RAYMOND DRIVE

FERRY ROAD
RIVER ROAD

WEST BRANCH DUPAGE RIVER

I-88

FOREST PRESERVE DIST. PROPERTY
ROADWAY RIGHT OF WAY
SCHOOL DIST. PROPERTY
COUNTY PROPERTY
REMAINING AREAS TO BE REMEDIATED

AERIAL SOURCE: ESRI WORLD IMAGERY

RAYMOND DRIVE

FERRY ROAD

WEST BRANCH DUPAGE RIVER

I-88

FOREST PRESERVE DIST. PROPERTY
ROADWAY RIGHT OF WAY
SCHOOL DIST. PROPERTY
COUNTY PROPERTY
REMAINING AREAS TO BE REMEDIATED

AERIAL SOURCE: ESRI WORLD IMAGERY

ILLINOIS ROUTE 59 REMEDIATION
$3.7 MILLION
( NOT BUDGETED)

BOWER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL REMEDIATION
$2.0 MILLION
(BUDGETED FOR 2012 CONSTRUCTION)

MCDOWELL GROVE REMEDIATION
$17.7 MILLION
(BUDGETED FOR 2012 CONSTRUCTION)

ROUTE 59
EDGEWOOD WALK
JOLIET STREET

WEST BRANCH DUPAGE RIVER

RAYMOND DRIVE
RAYMOND DRIVE

FERRY ROAD
RIVER ROAD

WEST BRANCH DUPAGE RIVER

I-88

FOREST PRESERVE DIST. PROPERTY
ROADWAY RIGHT OF WAY
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AERIAL SOURCE: ESRI WORLD IMAGERY

RAYMOND DRIVE

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WEST BRANCH DUPAGE RIVER

I-88

FOREST PRESERVE DIST. PROPERTY
ROADWAY RIGHT OF WAY
SCHOOL DIST. PROPERTY
COUNTY PROPERTY
REMAINING AREAS TO BE REMEDIATED

AERIAL SOURCE: ESRI WORLD IMAGERY

WILLS BURKE KELSEY ASSOCIATES LTD.
116 West Main Street, Suite 201
St. Charles, Illinois 60174
(630) 443-7755

FEDERAL AGENDA 2012

DATE
02/08/2012

EXHIBIT 1
The Children’s Advocacy Program:
The Children’s Advocacy Center is a specialized unit that provides the County’s young victims with a multi-disciplinary approach addressing the special needs of children who are victims of sexual or serious physical abuse. The Center also interviews children who have witnessed domestic violence or violent crimes at the request of local law enforcement. By bringing together police, the medical community, child welfare and other social service agencies, the center provides a sense of continuity for the child by offering consistency of staff involved with the child's case.

DuPage Children's Advocacy Center Mission:
- Minimize the trauma experienced by the child victim of sexual abuse or serious physical abuse during the investigation;
- Seek justice, not just convictions, of those responsible for the commission of sexual abuse or serious physical abuse;
- Provide support and facilitate treatment to the child victim and non-offending caregivers throughout the criminal justice process;
- Promote prevention of child victimization through community education.

The current facility:
The DuPage Children's Advocacy Center moved into its current location in 2002. The building was originally designed in the 1950's for the DuPage Highway Department and is situated along a heavily trafficked section of N. County Farm Road surrounded by several county departments. The nearby locations of the Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, Animal Control, Sheriff’s Work Alternative Program, Transportation Division’s maintenance shed and the County’s Convalescents Center have created significant concerns for confidentiality as well as competition for a limited number of parking spaces. Inside, the building has 6,400 square feet for offices, interview rooms and a waiting area.

The problem the County is addressing:
There current structure presents both a physical and operational threat to the program. As an older facility, there are significant maintenance and utility costs and after conducting an energy assessment, it was determined that the building needed a new roof and air handling system. Also, the building was designed for the Highway Department with no considerations as to the needs of the staff, families or children. The building has an institutional feel, which makes it more difficult to work with the children. Additionally, the single point of entry makes it challenging to maintain confidentiality. In short, the layout of the current facility does not adequately meet the needs of the Center’s mission.
How the County is addressing the problem:

The County has already taken several steps to implement a plan to move the Children’s Advocacy Center into a new structure. The new building will be located within a naturally wooded habitat and designed to foster a welcoming and warm atmosphere for children. Inside, the 16,000 square foot building will provide the ability to serve multiple families through several private interview rooms and an education center. The Children’s Center will share the facility with the DuPage Family Center, which provides services for divorcing and never married parents such as mediation, supervised visitation, neutral exchange and transitional exchange. By serving a similar set of needs in a shared area, these two centers can develop synergies and pool resources. The new building will not only meet the needs of both programs, it will also fulfill the requirements to be awarded a LEED gold certificate. With the site selected and the plans complete, the County is currently in the process of selecting a construction firm. Construction is anticipated to begin in March 2012 and run through December 2012.

What the county needs to complete this project:

This project is currently funded by a combination of user fees, loans, grants and County funds, but there still is a 5% shortfall. Furthermore the costs only account for the construction of the facility and do not include the costs of moving the programs. The current plan is to use office equipment and furniture from the current locations in the new facility. However, there is not enough equipment to fill all the needs and some pieces that work in the present locations will be incompatible with the new facility. Additional, funding will help close the budget gap for construction and any additional funds would help defray the costs of moving both programs’ equipment into the new facility as well as acquiring new furniture and equipment.

For Additional Information
Contact:
Robert B. Berlin
State's Attorney of DuPage County
630-407-8000
SAO@dupageco.org

Project Budget

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<th>Funding Sources</th>
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<td>County Funds</td>
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<td>CDBG</td>
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<td>State’s Attorney Fees &amp; Loan</td>
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<td>DuPage County Water Quality Grant</td>
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**FUNDING GAP:** ($272,200)
WIA
DuPage County Information Sheet:
Program results for the period July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011

- The DuPage County Workforce Development Division (WDD) located at the workNet DuPage Career Center in Lisle, is the recipient of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) funds for DuPage County.

- The County’s Workforce Division employs 36 county staff to provide services throughout the Center and to staff the activities of the Workforce Board.

- Over 6,600 job seekers came to the Center last year requesting assistance.

- The Division maintains over 250 employer customers, accommodated over 2,300 job orders, and hosted 18 on-site recruiters and 13 Job Fairs.

- As part of the Rapid Response Team, DuPage Workforce assisted 10 companies that either closed operations or significantly reduced its workforce (in total over 530 employees) to offer our services.

- Division staff worked with 10 Trade certified companies and over 250 workers to provide retraining.

- The Center assisted over 1,400 WIA eligible Adult and Dislocated Workers to receive individual vocational training in high growth rate, high demand occupations.

- Dislocated Workers that completed WIA funded services and obtained employment had average earnings of more than $25.50 per hour for full-time employment.

- Over 275 Youth who received the support they needed to complete high school or to obtain a GED, also received valuable work experience and vocational/occupational training to prepare them to enter the workforce.

- The Center provides priority services to Veterans and their covered spouses to re-enter the civilian workforce.

- Services to Job Seekers include: Job Search Workshops, Job Club, advanced professional development workshops, career assessment and counseling, Resource Room and Library, Occupational Training Scholarships, Job Fairs, connection to employers and job leads.
Ms. Kathy McAuliffe

Employer Liaison
DuPage County Workforce Development Division
at workNet DuPage Career Center
2525 Cabot Drive - Suite 302
Lisle, IL 60532

Dear Kathy:

We have worked with staff at workNet DuPage for over 2 years and been very pleased with their professionalism and results. They are always prompt and responsive in listening to our recruiting needs and working hard to bring qualified candidates to our job postings. It’s important to have a local recruiting source that understands the needs of the business community and also assists local citizens in connecting with good job opportunities. We will continue to work with workNet DuPage and support their activities.

Sharon S. Rakowski
Director of Human Resources
Adams Magnetic Products, Elmhurst IL
workNet DuPage Business Services Testimonials

"I'm very happy to let you know that we have hired a quality inspector and it was a candidate that came to us through workNet DuPage! He has been working at Adams Magnetic Products for 6 months now and is a great addition to our staff.

workNet DuPage is a responsive, local solution to our recruiting needs and we will continue to use it and encourage other businesses to utilize its services as well."

Sharon S. Rakowski, Director of Human Resources, Adams Magnetic Products, Elmhurst, IL

"Hi Kathy I worked with you on a position a few months back. We happily hired Heather from our ad with workNet DuPage! I have 3 openings and I will attach the job description for each. We are looking for 2 additional sales professionals and a service technician. Should you have any questions please contact me, I am hoping for great results again. By-the-way, you folks do a tremendous job thank you!"

Dan Whittington, Director of Sales, Illinois Business Systems, Downers Grove, IL

"I wanted to drop you a note to share some positive feedback. One of our hiring managers commented on the candidates for our open position who heard of the opportunity through workNet DuPage. She specifically mentioned the excellent cover letters and resumes of those candidates. The caliber of the candidates themselves is impressive. The training you provide seems very effective in how candidates present themselves. Thank you for being an excellent resource for the City of Naperville as an employer and for the community we both serve!"

Lisa Tooley, Human Resources Technician, City of Naperville, Naperville, IL

"I have worked with workNet DuPage for over two years. workNet DuPage Career Center has been an invaluable resource for our business. The employees who lost jobs at my organization as a result of our production moving to Mexico were able to take advantage of a variety of transition resources. I have heard from many of them, and they always made a point to mention how helpful it was to have access to job search assistance and training. I am anticipating more layoffs and I am hoping that our employees will continue to have access to these resources. In addition, the career center provided me with access to quality candidates for the positions which are staying in our U.S. location. I have recently hired a candidate who applied on the workNet DuPage job board."

Ewa Hartfield, Human Resources Generalist, AMETEK Instrumentation & Specialty Controls Division, West Chicago, IL

As Human Resources Director I have found workNet DuPage Career Center to be a very valuable resource. Our local board promoted the participation of private sector employers through connecting, brokering, and coaching activities. The DuPage Employer Liaison was an essential partner. She assisted my organization with meeting our hiring needs by directly supporting our recruiting efforts and offered access to skilled workers through job clubs, job fairs and sharing of our job leads. Without money to advertise for open positions this past year, we were able to hire two excellent candidates through workNet DuPage Career Center’s efforts on our behalf, at no charge.

Pamela Bodziuch, SPHR, Director of Human Resources, Hassett Air Express, Elmhurst, IL
CDBG
DuPage County
CDBG Funding:

The President’s proposed 2013 budget calls for level funding of the CDBG program. Having sustained a 22% cut in CDBG funds since 2010 DuPage County requests that Congress support the program at levels at least equal to 2012 funding.

Now in its 37th year, the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) is arguably one of the Federal Government's most successful domestic programs. CDBG provides assistance to low and moderate income persons and persons with special needs by supporting housing activities, public improvements and public services. These programs provide a direct benefit to DuPage County elderly, people with disabilities, families in crisis and the homeless population that would not be possible without this federal-local partnership.

Over the years, DuPage County has allocated monies through CDBG to organizations such as Family Shelter Service, the Northern Illinois Food Bank, Little Friends, Prairie State Legal Services, Catholic Charities, DuPage PADS, the People's Resource Center, Metropolitan Family Services, Teen Parent Connection (formerly DuPage MYM), Habitat for Humanity, Neighborhood Resource Centers, Access Community Health and the DuPage Dental Clinic (see attached chart).

The county’s CDBG grant has dropped from $4,260,803 in 2010 to $3,324,452 in 2012. The $936,351 decrease is especially difficult as the number of families living in poverty in DuPage County continues to increase. As part of our 2012 Action Plan, the DuPage County Community Development Commission had to make the painful decision to discontinue CDBG funding for services for seniors and persons with disabilities. Considering the strain already placed on non-profit agencies by the State's financial crisis, the loss of CDBG support puts additional pressures on our community’s safety net.

This week, the County Board adopted recommendations for 2012 Funding Awards under CDBG that include $500,000 (over two years) towards the cost of building a new joint facility to serve clients under the Child Advocacy Center and the Family Center, $879,753 towards necessary infrastructure construction and replacement in West Chicago, Glendale Heights and Bensenville, and $750,000 towards the purchase of a facility for Peoples’ Resource Center that will serve 28,000 low, very low, and extremely low income families in southeast DuPage County.

DuPage County would appreciate the opportunity to work with members of Congress to look for administrative efficiencies wherever possible in order to maximize the impact of the CDBG program. We would respectfully request your careful review of any proposed spending cuts and the impact those reductions would have long-term on our communities and quality of life.