



Founded June 19, 1962

DUPAGE MAYORS AND MANAGERS CONFERENCE

an association of municipalities representing 1,000,000 people

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MEMBER MUNICIPALITIES

Addison
Aurora
Bartlett
Bensenville
Bloomingtondale
Bolingbrook
Burr Ridge
Carol Stream
Clarendon Hills
Downers Grove
Elmhurst
Glendale Heights
Glen Ellyn
Hanover Park
Hinsdale
Itasca
Lemont
Lisle
Lombard
Naperville
Oak Brook
Oakbrook Terrace
Roselle
Schaumburg
St. Charles
Villa Park
Warrenville
Wayne
West Chicago
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Wheaton
Willowbrook
Winfield
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 1, 2006

Transportation Project Manager

PRESS RELEASE ■ PRESS RELEASE ■ PRESS RELEASE

Public to “Drive” Additional Bus Transit Service

Public Involvement to Guide Decisions on Community-based Shuttle Service in DuPage County

*Oak Brook, IL - The DuPage Mayors and Managers Conference (DMMC), in cooperation with DuPage County, **announces the public involvement stage for a key project of the DuPage Area Transit Plan** (www.dmmc-cog.org).*

Working with residents, businesses, senior citizens, and other potential riders, the “DuPage Local Circulator Study” will introduce a new kind of bus transit service to several DuPage area communities. The Study will evaluate thirteen communities and use this input to design and implement circulator services in key areas of the County.

Circulators are community-based, locally-oriented bus transit services that bridge the gap between the larger bus or train routes and residential, commercial, or workplace destinations. They can also be used to travel around the community or even between communities.

Tam Kutzmark, DMMC’s Transportation Project Manager, explained “Circulators can go that first or last mile of the commute and make it possible for riders to get not just from station to station, but also from home to station or from station to workplace. They’ll add an important travel option to our public transit network.”

“But we need input to build this network,” said Kutzmark. “This is the perfect opportunity for people to tell us what they need,” said Kutzmark, “Participation is vital to ensuring these services are effective, efficient, and responsive.”

- MORE -

February 1, 2006

DU PAGE MAYORS AND MANAGERS CONFERENCE
PRESS RELEASE

Public input opportunities include: open houses; focus groups for local businesses and citizen groups; commuter surveys at Metra Stations and along Pace and RideDuPage routes; and a website providing an on-line survey and other project information.

Kutzmark added, "We want anyone who cares about bus transit services to take the on-line survey." The survey is available at www.GetAroundDuPage.org from February 6 to March 17.

The public input will be used to help determine the transportation needs within each community, the areas of the communities to be served, and the most appropriate type of service. Local support for a circulator service will be an important factor to determine where services are started.

The thirteen participating communities were identified by a DMMC selection committee and include Addison, Bensenville, Downers Grove, Elmhurst, Glen Ellyn, Glendale Heights, Lombard, Oak Brook, Oakbrook Terrace, Villa Park, West Chicago, Wheaton, and Wood Dale.

Opportunities for public input will occur throughout the project. The first phase is the Market Assessment. This step will determine the level of need for circulator service in each community. Beginning in spring, the second phase will identify service areas and the type of service to be provided in each community. At the end of this phase, DMMC select the first three community service areas for circulator service. Starting in summer, the project team will focus on these three areas and develop detailed service plans for each. Once the service has been designed, the team will develop an implementation plan.

A key part of the process will be the development of a DuPage Circulator Guidebook. This will both document the study process and provide guidance for the remaining communities to design and implement circulator services. The Guidebook will serve as an important resource for circulator services throughout the region. Completion of the implementation plan and Guidebook is anticipated in early 2007.

DMMC, in cooperation with DuPage County, adopted the DuPage Area Transit Plan in 2002. During the planning process, localized services emerged as a primary piece of mobility needed in the DuPage County area. DMMC received a grant from the Illinois Department of Transportation and the Regional Transportation Authority to support the DuPage Local Circulator Study.

Founded in 1962, the DuPage Mayors and Managers Conference is a council of 35 municipalities representing over 1,000,000 people. A coalition of cities and villages, the Conference offers the

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February 1, 2006

DU PAGE MAYORS AND MANAGERS CONFERENCE
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municipal perspective on local, regional, state and national issues. It also serves its members and the region by fostering intergovernmental cooperation. The Conference is a non-profit organization supported by membership dues and grants.

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For more information see the attached background sheets.

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