RESOLUTION

Whereas,
    The Union League Club of Chicago, through its Public Affairs Committee and as a member of Business Leaders for Transportation, has long advocated initiatives that address the Chicago region’s transportation needs, including both freight and mass transit systems; and

Whereas,
    Said initiatives include the Chicago Region Environment and Transportation Efficiency (CREATE), a public-private partnership among the State of Illinois, City of Chicago, and the nation’s freight railroads designed to bring critically needed improvements to our area’s rail infrastructure and to thereby maintain Chicago’s preeminence as a transportation hub within the United States; and

Whereas,
    Said initiatives also include sufficient funding for regional mass transit systems, specifically the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA), Metra and Pace – also known as Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) service boards – which are working to address shortfalls in operating revenue, increasing capital requirements to repair or replace aging infrastructure and significant pension obligations; and

Whereas,
    Without action by the Illinois General Assembly to help meet these needs, the region’s mass transit agencies will be compelled to cut service and raise fares and thus diminish or eliminate critical public transportation for thousands of commuters in the Chicago region, the likelihood of which has been well documented; and

Whereas,
    The Illinois House Mass Transit Committee has now passed a promising bipartisan bill that would provide increased funding and also induce important reforms within the region’s transit agencies, including changing CTA employee pension and benefit systems and giving the RTA stronger oversight authority of the service agencies; therefore

Be It Resolved,
    That to promote a strong, accountable and reliable public transportation system and the economic interests of the Chicago region and the State of Illinois, the Union League Club of Chicago urges Governor Rod Blagojevich to work with the Illinois General Assembly and the leaders of regional transit including the CTA, Metra, Pace and the RTA to craft a solution to the crisis facing regional mass transit; and

Be It Further Resolved,
    That a suitable copy of this resolution be forwarded to Governor Blagojevich, to the leaders of the Illinois General Assembly, and to other civic organizations concerned with this matter.

Adopted June 26, 2007 by the Board of Directors.

Frank Niederman
President

James Barber
Secretary