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## **For Immediate Release**

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# **Local Elected Officials Reach Consensus on the Future of Illinois Route 120**

The Route 120 Corridor Planning Council Governance Board voted last night to approve a unified vision for the future of the Illinois Route 120 transportation corridor. This action is the culmination of a four-year long process to build local consensus around future improvements to this heavily congested east-west state highway that crosses central Lake County.

The plan identifies recommendations on the character of the road - a four lane arterial highway with limited access – and the future alignment of the road, which includes a seven mile by-pass segment.

The Governance Board is comprised of mayors and county board members representing municipalities and districts located within ½-mile of the corridor. The Board's approval of the plan now sets the stage for the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) to begin a Phase I Engineering Study and design a highway improvement that has broad and enthusiastic local support.

“We have been able to bring together the interests of eleven municipalities and five county board districts into a single, unified vision for the future of central Lake County,” said Diana O’Kelly, Governance Board Vice-Chair and County Board District 10 Representative. “I am hopeful that the State of Illinois will recognize the importance of this achievement and move forward with these critically needed improvements to the Illinois Route 120 corridor.”

The plan will be used by the County and municipalities to establish future decisions on land use, road alignment and character, proposed intersection and highway access locations, and environmental resource protection. Over the past several years, the Corridor Planning Council has studied and reviewed options regarding the character and future alignment of the road, and

collected input at two public meetings, prior to making a final decision. Local elected officials identified the Illinois Route 120 transportation corridor as a priority at the September 2005 Transportation Summit.

More information is available at [www.120now.com](http://www.120now.com).