



2007-08
BIENNIAL REPORT

**Connecting the Dots
for a Competitive,
Equitable and Sustainable
Chicago Region**



Metropolitan Planning Council

Since 1934, the Metropolitan Planning Council (MPC) has been dedicated to shaping a more sustainable and prosperous greater Chicago region. As an independent, nonprofit, nonpartisan organization, MPC serves communities and residents by developing, promoting and implementing solutions for sound regional growth.

New logo and mission statement approved by the Board of Governors in December 2008.

**THE
METROPOLITAN
PLANNING**

COUNCIL connects the dots — between regional needs, challenges, and solutions, and among the individuals and organizations with the power and capacity to guide the growth of an ever-changing Chicago metropolitan region.



In 2008, following a two-year strategic communications assessment — conducted by an impressive group of marketing professionals donating their time and expertise — the MPC Board of Governors approved a new logo and mission statement that capture our core essence as a connector of people and ideas committed to making the Chicago region a prosperous and desirable place to live and work.

MPC's previous mission and logo, which illustrated our commitment to the greater Chicagoland region, represented us well for more than a decade. Still, it was clear, times had changed and so had we. Regional problem-solving is no longer an unfamiliar idea, but valued and used by residents and policymakers alike. At 75-years-old, MPC is a vital part of a growing field of sensible planning and sustainable development proponents. Through an internal restructuring in 2007, MPC redoubled its focus on the projects and activities with which we could have the greatest positive impact.


On the following pages of this biennial report, documenting our work and accomplishments in 2007 and 2008, you can read more about MPC's high-impact priorities. By looking back at the last two years, as well as anticipating 2009 and beyond, we share the story of how MPC is working to create an economically competitive, socially equitable, and environmentally sustainable region.

For all the progress MPC has made over the last three-quarters of a century, and especially during the past two years, there is still a tremendous amount to do. We are energized by the current federal government's increasing understanding that metro regions will drive the economic recovery. Change at the state level in Illinois, new models of collaboration among our municipal partners, and a fresh perspective on who we are and what we do all strengthen our resolve to seize the moment to put the Chicago region back on the path to prosperity. We invite you to join us.

MARYSUE BARRETT, *President*

LEE M. MITCHELL, *Chair*

A COMPETITIVE REGION



MPC worked to draft legislation establishing a system in Illinois for allocating capital resources based on statewide goals and measurable criteria to reap the greatest return on taxpayer dollars.

IN A PERFECT

WORLD, *when economic times are good, public investments are made where they can have the greatest impact. With comprehensive, long-term planning, sound investment will sustain us through a bad economic stretch.*

The Metropolitan Planning Council promotes fresh, innovative strategies that answer the region's most challenging problems. Since 1934, MPC has been leading the way on a range of new and better ideas to make the Chicago region more competitive — in good times and bad. Our accomplishments in 2007 and 2008 are no exception.

Capital Investment Criteria

Illinois has not had a capital investment program — to build or even maintain essential infrastructure like transit, bridges and schools — since Illinois FIRST was first enacted in 1999 and expired in 2004. The state has never had a comprehensive set of objective, cost-benefit criteria to evaluate which projects to fund.

In 2007 and 2008, MPC worked to draft legislation establishing a statewide system for allocating capital resources based on statewide goals and measurable criteria to reap the greatest return on taxpayer dollars. It was introduced to the Illinois General Assembly 2009 as the Transportation Investment Accountability Act (HB 2359), sponsored by Ill. Rep. Kathy Ryg (D-Vernon Hills).



Transit Innovation

Imagine how much there is to learn from the world's brightest transit and land use minds about fresh approaches to reducing gridlock and improving mobility and livability in our region. Thanks to a two-year partnership with Bombardier, MPC has had that valuable opportunity.

In June 2008, transportation delegates from New York, San Francisco, and Chicago met in Stockholm, Sweden, to learn about congestion pricing and transit expansion during the first of two international peer exchanges. In May 2009, MPC and a second delegation traveled to Berlin, Germany. Before and after that trip, MPC is using online and social media technology to connect participants with local decision makers, and facilitate an ongoing



Bus Rapid Transit in Bogota, Columbia.

exchange of innovative ideas, successes and solutions.

Bus Rapid Transit

Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) is a unique bus network that travels in dedicated lanes and uses signal prioritization technology to extend green lights, allowing a bus to travel more quickly than other traffic through a corridor and improve on-time service by up to 30 percent.

In 2008, MPC was encouraged to see BRT was a major component of the City of Chicago's proposal for a \$153 million Congestion Reduction Demonstration Grant from the U.S. Dept. of Transportation.

Unfortunately, Chicago's City Council missed its 2008 deadline to apply for

the grant by approving just one — the privatization of the city's parking meters — of three necessary measures. The silver lining is the city has the opportunity to reapply for funding, with a stronger proposal linked to community revitalization and the 2016 Olympics.

In 2009, MPC will continue its work to coordinate with northeastern Illinois' transit agencies and stakeholders to promote BRT and a range of other transportation improvement and development proposals to increase regional mobility and decrease the number of miles driven per person. In addition, MPC's Ad Hoc Olympic Legacy Committee will work to advance BRT in Chicago.

Hauptbahnhof Station, Berlin, Germany.

Armed with the results of its groundbreaking, data-rich 2008 report “Moving at the Speed of Congestion,” MPC has been making the case for fresh thinking to solve one of our region’s most urgent and expensive challenges.

The costs of congestion to Chicagoland

Everyone knows traffic in Chicagoland is bad and getting worse, but most people don’t realize how much it costs them — and the region — every year. In August 2008, MPC released its report, *Moving at the Speed of Congestion*, which breaks down the cost of traffic jams (at 2008 prices) in metropolitan Chicago to show the effect on people, businesses and counties. The results are staggering:

- Traffic costs the region \$7.3 billion a year — nearly twice previous estimates — in lost time, fuel and environmental damages.

- The costs of congestion are threatening Chicagoland’s place in the global economy. The freight industry alone loses \$1 billion each year — enough to fund the local share of the CREATE program to modernize and improve the region’s freight infrastructure.

- For every hour a driver sits in rush-hour traffic in the Chicago area, he or she kisses goodbye \$14.76. That’s \$1,579 a year — enough to cover several months’ worth of groceries, fill up the average car’s gas tank 25 times, or take a family of four to Disney World!

- As people struggle to make ends meet, they may be surprised to learn lost time costs them nearly 20 times more than wasted fuel.

Most importantly, MPC’s report shows congestion is not confined to the city limits, but is a problem across the region. While gridlock happens most in Chicago, much of that traffic originates elsewhere. And, the congestion is actually worse on local arterial roads throughout the region than it is on expressways.

“If nothing is done to solve Chicagoland’s traffic dilemma, by 2030 we’ll be squandering \$11.3 billion a year due to traffic,” said MarySue Barrett, MPC president. “Excess congestion has infected the entire region’s transportation network, and everyone from Kane to Cook should support and invest in solutions.”



FEDERAL INVESTMENT REFORM

In anticipation of a new presidential administration in Washington, D.C., MPC convened local and national partners to begin shaping a new framework for federal investment that recognizes priorities and ensures accountability, rewards innovation and collaboration, and directs resources where they will have the greatest benefit — not based on funding formulas, but measured against objective goals and criteria.

Currently, in the U.S., far too many federal policies work against regional problem solving and innovation. In 2009, MPC will research exist-

A LOOK AHEAD

ing programs, ally with national and regional partners to identify smart solutions, and promote a reform agenda that rewards local communities that are making decisions consistent with the region's coordinated plan for growth. MPC also is contributing to the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning's *Go To 2040* plan and Northwest Indiana's *One Region: One Vision* initiative.

President Barack Obama spoke at MPC's 2004 Annual Luncheon, as a candidate for U.S. Senate. In 2008, Henry Cisneros, executive chairman of CitiView and former secretary of the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development, represented Obama at MPC's Annual Luncheon, Metropolitan Mandate: How the Next President Will Maximize Metro Potential.



AN EQUITABLE REGION



MPC has regularly convened the developers of the CHA mixed-income communities to identify and address their shared concerns.

MPC WAS FOUNDED 75 YEARS AGO

on the premise that everyone deserves a safe, decent place to live, and access to the opportunities that make this region and nation great. Today, MPC is just as firmly committed to supporting a socially and economically equitable Chicagoland.

In 2007 and 2008, MPC continued its founding commitment to our most vulnerable residents by supporting a successful Chicago Housing Authority (CHA) Plan for Transformation, as well as deploying state incentives and facilitating groundbreaking municipal cooperation to create more housing options regionwide.

Public Housing in the Public Interest

MPC has been invested in the success of the CHA Plan for Transformation since its inception in 1999, by engaging stakeholders, developers and experts on key issues, pursuing best practices to address critical challenges, and promoting investment in the neighborhoods around the new mixed-income communities, particularly through employer-assisted housing.

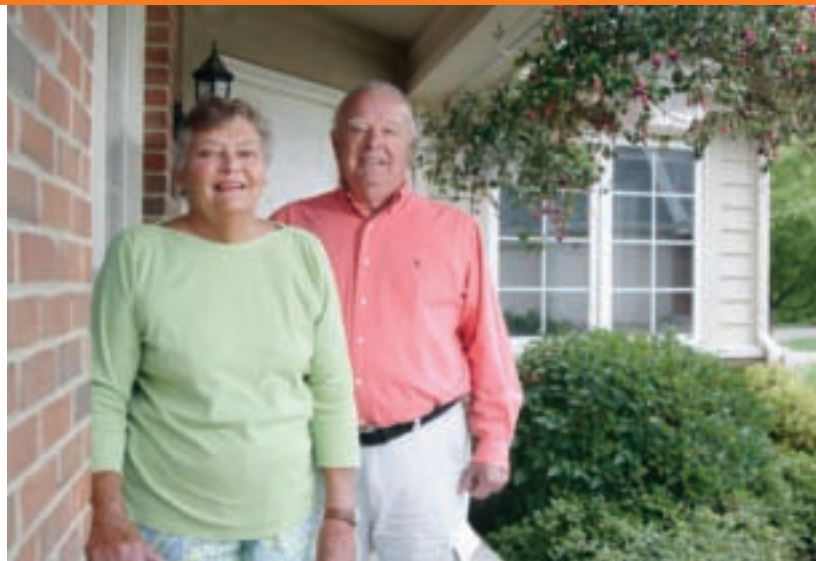
In addition to co-facilitating quarterly “Building Successful Mixed-Income Communities” forums (with the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation) and publishing progress reports on the Plan, MPC has regularly convened the developers of the CHA mixed-

income communities to identify and address their shared concerns.

In 2009, the CHA Plan for Transformation will reach a significant 10-year milestone. MPC is working closely with its partners at CHA, and the MacArthur Foundation, as well as other stakeholders, to identify where it can provide the most valuable support to ensure the Plan moves forward in a way that benefits public housing residents and the region at large.

State Housing Policy and Incentives

MPC has piloted several housing concepts, including the Regional Housing Initiative (RHI), to fund affordable development in opportunity-rich suburbs, improve coordination



Homeowners in Lake Forest, Ill.

among local housing authorities, and advance municipal, county and state housing goals.

In 2009, MPC will continue to provide technical assistance to local housing authorities and developers, as well as advocate with Cook County, the State of Illinois, and U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development to increase housing options near jobs and transit for very low-income families throughout the region.

Workforce Housing Collaborative

MPC is working closely with the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus to create collaborations “across boundaries” to manage shared housing strategies.

Specifically, MPC is partnering with clusters of municipal leaders to establish a new (or expand an existing) entity that will coordinate staff, plans and resources to create opportunities for local workers.

MPC’s initial partners were in “hot market” clusters in northern (Deerfield, Highland Park, Highwood, Lake Forest and Northbrook) and northwest (Arlington Heights, Buffalo Grove, Palatine and Rolling Meadows) suburbs. In 2009, MPC and the Mayors Caucus will expand this work to DuPage County and communities along the Fox River.



St. Charles, Ill.

MPC develops, promotes and implements solutions for sound regional growth and development. Employer-assisted housing exemplifies MPC's leadership at each step along that continuum.

Employer-assisted housing

In 2008, MPC celebrated an important milestone: 1,700 workers had purchased new homes through its employer-assisted housing programs. What began in 2000, as MPC's new twist on a successful program in California's Silicon Valley, has become a standard bearer for helping local workers become homeowners. It also is creating an active cadre of employers championing workforce housing solutions.

In 2007 and 2008 combined, employers invested more than \$2.2 million in EAH, helping some 850 employees purchase homes near work. EAH has proven to be a useful tool across industries, benefitting manufacturers, nonprofits, hospitals, universities and banks.

EAH is incredibly versatile, too. The City of Highland Park initiated a small pilot program in 2008, providing \$4,500 each to two employees purchasing homes within the city limits. One of those workers bought a townhome developed through Highland Park's land trust, which was established to increase



affordable housing options in the well-heeled North Shore community. The same year, Loyola University launched an EAH program to embrace the CTA Red Line that serves both of its Chicago campuses. Employees can receive \$5,000 for purchasing homes along the train route or within walking distance of either campus.

Edna B. Williams-Foreman, who received homeownership counseling and down-payment assistance through the University of Chicago's five-year-old EAH program, explained how the benefit impacts more than the bottom line. "Mentally, I was ready to purchase my first home, but my credit was not the best. My counselor helped me understand that the fast way is not always the best way, and saved me from

getting into a sub-prime loan," she said. "Now that we're in our new home, I can spend more time with my children and my community. I'm president of the local PTA, and just helped my son purchase his first home. It has truly changed my life."

MPC's employer-assisted housing initiatives also have engaged the private sector as housing advocates. When business leaders speak, policymakers listen. As the foreclosure crisis dramatizes the value of a stable, productive workforce, more employers are joining the call for innovative live-near-work strategies.

MUNICIPAL COLLABORATION

When a family loses its home to foreclosure, the entire community feels the effects. Children are pulled from their classrooms mid-year. Neighbors fret over their own property values. Local retailers lose business. Elected officials are forced to shift precious resources to deal with this devastating community-wide problem.

With this pattern playing out in towns and cities across the nation, in the fall of 2008 the Housing and Economic Recovery Act authorized the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development to respond with the first round of Neighborhood

A LOOK AHEAD



Shoppers at the farmers market in Robbins, Ill.

Stabilization Program (NSP) dollars, delivering nearly \$4 billion to assist state and local governments in acquiring and redeveloping foreclosed properties before they become sources of blight. Illinois received \$172.5 million, including about \$55 million for Chicago and about \$64 million for surrounding municipalities and Cook,

DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry and Will counties.

The money helps. However, it is not nearly enough to address every foreclosed property in the region — and comes with many time-consuming and confusing regulations attached. In 2008, MPC and the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus began working with clusters of mayors in western and southern Cook County suburbs hit hard by foreclosures, to make the most of these limited funds by collaborating, rather than competing,


across boundaries and attracting additional private and public sector support.

In addition, in December 2008, MPC hosted meetings and a tour for newly elected President Obama's housing transition team, to demonstrate the effectiveness of MPC's interjurisdictional model and inspire new federal housing investment policies. The lessons learned through Chicagoland's cooperative efforts have already helped to reshape NSP 2 and other future federal investments.



Robbins, Ill.

A SUSTAINABLE REGION

A photograph of a man fishing in a river. He is wearing a dark blue t-shirt, black shorts, and a brown cap. He is standing in the water, holding a fishing rod. In the background, there is a large dam with water cascading over it. The water in the foreground is calm and reflects the sky.

In 2009, MPC and its partners will develop and promote recommendations to improve water supply planning and governance in Illinois.

FOR SOME

PEOPLE, *sustainability is purely an environmental issue. Recycle your paper and plastic. Drive a hybrid car and use compact fluorescent light bulbs. Turn off the tap when you brush your teeth. MPC supports these personal lifestyle choices, as well as sensible land use planning to reduce the need for people to drive, and thereby diminish the damage we do to the earth.*

MPC also believes community involvement, support and vision are key to creating a sustainable environment. If the people who live, work and play in a place have a vested connection to it, they will become stewards of its continued health and prosperity.

Water Supply Planning

Water may very well be the world's latest hot commodity. This is true even in Illinois, with its seemingly endless — but actually quite limited — Lake Michigan water supply. In 2009, MPC and Openlands will develop and promote recommendations to improve water



supply planning and governance in Illinois, which are essential to protecting the state's finite water supply. In addition to highlighting workable water conservation strategies, MPC and Openlands will propose a detailed framework for how the state can coordinate regional water supply solutions, including reducing the amount of Lake Michigan water we waste, and making better investment decisions.

Corridor Development Initiative

During the summer of 2008, more than 100 residents of Lawndale, on Chicago's West Side, participated in a Corridor Development Initiative led by MPC and the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP). The goal was to identify community interests and concerns about neighborhood development, and work with architects and developers to create realistic plans for Ogden Avenue and nearby sites with available land. In the fall of 2008, MPC and CMAP teamed up again for a similar process in Chicago's South Side neighborhood of Hyde Park.

MPC customized the Corridor Development Initiative, an unconventional, participatory



Local residents envision new development in Hyde Park.

planning process, to help residents understand technical issues such as density, affordable housing finance, architectural design, and the true cost of bringing retail to their communities. Through a three-step process that includes a hands-on opportunity for residents to “build” what they would like to see on specific sites, the community creates a distinct set of priorities that can

guide local leaders and developers as they plan for future growth.

MPC documented the Corridor Development Initiative with a video featuring Lawndale residents, and published that community's preferences in the report *Vision Driving Development*. And, within weeks of the final community meeting in Hyde Park, the results of the process were being incorporated into development plans for Harper Court.



Lawndale neighborhood in Chicago.

MPC launched its Reconnecting Neighborhoods initiative in November 2007, with a meeting of more than 100 local residents, elected officials, and other stakeholders. About 12 months and 20 community meetings later, MPC presented final recommendations to the City of Chicago and Regional Transportation Authority: new CTA stations, better pedestrian and bicycle routes; express service to the Loop via bus rapid transit or streetcar; and increased support for commercial and mixed-use development. Moving the recommendations into action will be MPC's priority in 2009, with a special focus on synergies with the proposed 2016 Olympics venues.

Access, amenities and opportunity

Throughout 2008, MPC invited residents in three Chicago neighborhoods impacted by the Chicago Housing Authority's Plan for Transformation — on the Near North, Near West, and Mid-South sides — to guide recommendations to improve transit services, sidewalks and bike lanes, and local retail options.

The Reconnecting Neighborhoods project was funded by the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) and led by the then

Chicago Dept. of Planning and Development, with major support from MPC and the planning firm HNTB.

"Reconnecting Neighborhoods is the city's first partnership with the Regional Transportation Authority's Community Planning Grant program, and we've been greatly pleased with the results," said Benet Haller, director of urban design and planning for the City of Chicago. "The success of Reconnecting Neighborhoods encouraged us to initiate three additional projects with the RTA to



examine redevelopment opportunities around Chicago Transit Authority stations."

MPC's role in the project was to involve each community in determining what they want and need.

To gain early local champions for the project, MPC established neighborhood task forces comprised of residents, business owners, and elected officials, who helped generate additional interest and public participation.

PLACEMAKING

MPC's partnership with New York City's Project for Public Spaces (PPS) is providing Chicago residents with the resources they need to make positive changes in their neighborhoods. Placemaking, or creating places around the way people want to use them, draws on PPS' experiences in cities around the world.

The collaboration with MPC began in 2007, with a series of roundtables co-hosted with the Chicago Architecture Foundation, entitled "Neighbors Making a Difference," featuring local community activists who, through a series of small steps, made big changes in their neighborhoods.

To tailor Placemaking to Chicago, MPC and PPS collaborated to produce a guidebook, *A Guide to Neighborhood Placemak-*



A LOOK AHEAD

Andersonville neighborhood in Chicago.

ing in Chicago, which outlines the key steps in implementing a vision and methods of ensuring a place is well-used and actively programmed for people. MPC also launched an interactive Web site, Placemaking-Chicago.com, to serve as a portal for residents interested in sharing and showcasing their work. It features a downloadable version of the guidebook, two-minute audio slideshow that explains Placemaking in a nutshell, list of local resources, and stories about real people in

metropolitan Chicago who are re-imagining their communities. In addition, MPC started a social networking group, Placemaking Chicago, where people from across the region interested in shaping their communities can meet online to exchange ideas.

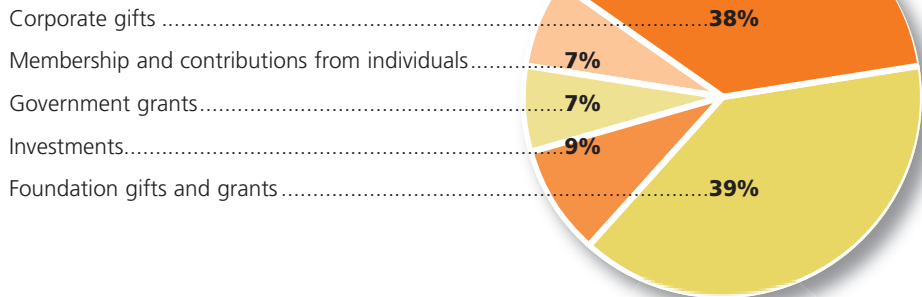
Recognizing that creating great places is a job that is never finished, in 2008, MPC advanced its Placemaking work with workshops to train and provide technical assistance to community

groups and city agencies on Placemaking ideas and techniques. In 2009, MPC is taking these ideas to the streets. First up was the Polish Triangle, a concrete dead space at the intersection of Ashland, Division and Milwaukee avenues, in Chicago's Wicker Park neighborhood, where residents dream of something more.

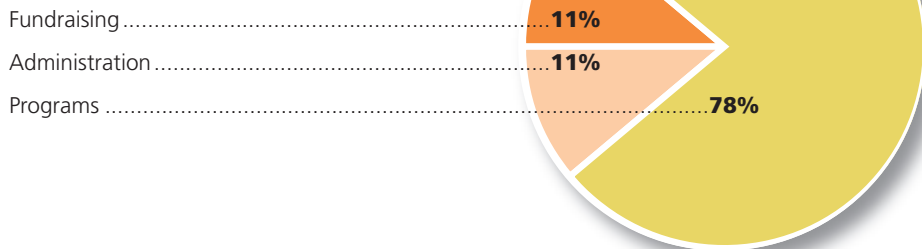
FINANCIALS

	2007 RESULTS	2008 RESULTS
Opening net assets	\$10,712,589	\$11,812,249
Income		
Membership/contributions/events	\$1,674,951	\$1,289,183
Bold Plans/Bright Future campaign	\$39,485	\$17,054
Restricted grants	\$1,757,752	\$1,899,626
Other income	\$1,185,978	\$(2,589,661)
Total net assets available	\$15,370,755	\$12,428,451
Expenses		
Salaries	\$1,613,710	\$1,682,597
Benefits and taxes	\$301,398	\$333,696
Occupancy expenses	\$211,536	\$222,337
Support services	\$286,580	\$327,556
Other program expenditures	\$1,145,282	\$1,252,005
Total expenses	\$3,558,506	\$3,818,191
Net ending assets	\$11,812,249	\$8,610,260
Unrestricted net assets:		
Board designated reserve fund	\$5,382,138	\$5,548,388
Undesignated	\$3,160,846	\$(109,247)
Temporarily restricted net assets	\$1,246,511	\$1,148,365
Endowment fund	\$2,022,754	\$2,022,754

2008 Donor Profile



2008 Expenditures



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Burnham Award for Excellence in Planning Winners

2008: Village of Arlington Heights for the Timber Court Condominium Development

2007: The Indiana cities of East Chicago, Gary, Hammond, Portage, and Whiting and U.S. Rep. Pete Visclosky's office for *The Marquette Plan: The Lakeshore Reinvestment Strategy*

Northwest Indiana's Lake Michigan shoreline is the centerpiece of the Marquette Plan.



The Rt. Hon Tessa Jowell, MP, U.K. minister for the Olympics and London (above), was the keynote speaker at MPC's 2007 Annual Luncheon. She captivated the crowd, drawing parallels between the legacy potential of London's and Chicago's Olympics bids.



MPC's 2008 Annual Luncheon featured presidential candidate surrogates Henry Cisneros (top) for Barack Obama, and Ill. Rep. James Durkin for John McCain.

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In memoriam

MPC lost some very dear friends in 2008. In February, we joined the civic and business community in mourning the passing of Elmer Johnson, who was a vice chair of MPC's Board of Governors, established MPC's Executive Advisors, and worked closely with MPC to author the book, *Chicago Metropolis 2020: The Chicago Plan for the 21st Century*.

In July, we were saddened by the loss of David K. Hill, a member of our Board of Governors and an inspired advocate for affordable housing for the region's families.

In December, we lost two: honorary board member James T. Otis, who served on the board from 1969-1990 and as MPC board president from 1984 to 1987; and Marshall Holleb, who, along with his wife Doris, was one of MPC's most loyal and longest donors.

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contributions
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and/or 2008:**

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MPC Publications

All publications available at metroplanning.org.

Retail 1-2-3: A workbook for local officials and community leaders, February 2007 (A collaboration of the Campaign for Sensible Growth, International Council of Shopping Centers, Metropolitan Mayors Caucus, and MPC)

2007 Policy Agenda: Priorities for Legislative or Administrative Action, February 2007

Resolving the School Funding Debate: Metropolitan Planning Council Recommendations for Education and Tax Reform in 2007, May 2007

Chicago Housing Authority Plan for Transformation Update, July 2007

St. Charles Housing — Today and in the Future: MPC St. Charles Housing Task Force Report, July 2007

Lake Forest: Breaking New Ground for Affordable Housing: MPC Lake Forest Task Force Report, September 2007

Home Grown: Local Housing Strategies in Action, December 2007 (Created through a partnership between MPC, Metropolitan Mayors Caucus, and Chicago Metropolis 2020.)

Chicago Housing Authority Plan for Transformation Update, February 2008

2008 Policy Agenda: Opportunity Knocks, April 2008

Putting Illinois Back on the Map, May 2008

Moving at the Speed of Congestion, August 2008

Housing 1-2-3: A Workbook for Local Officials and Community Leaders, September 2008 (A collaboration of the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, Illinois Housing Council, Metropolitan Mayors Caucus, and MPC)

Chicago Housing Authority Plan for Transformation Update, October 2008

A Guide to Neighborhood Placemaking in Chicago, October 2008 (A collaboration of Project for Public Spaces and MPC)

Vision Driving Development: Lawndale Community Development Initiative, December 2008

Technical Assistance Panel reports (with ULI-Chicago)

Remaking an Historic Corridor: Archer Avenue/Bridgeport, Chicago, June 2007

Building Connections between the East Side and Hill Communities, Chicago Heights, Ill., December 2007

Industrial Renaissance: Establishing a Creative Industries District, Pilsen/Cermak Road, Chicago, February 2008

Publications related to the Water Resources and Sustainable Growth project of MPC and Openlands

Preserving the Kishwaukee Watershed: Guiding Development in the Marengo-Union Region, April 2007

Reclaiming Trim Creek: Managing Growth and Protecting Resources in the Kankakee River Watershed, May 2007

Is the State of Illinois Prepared for Water Shortages? Recommendations for a New Approach to Water Governance, May 2008 (Prepared by Jack Wittman, Ph.D, and commissioned by MPC, Openlands, and Paul Simon Public Policy Institute)

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ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Accomplishments 2007-2008

The Community Building Initiative **Joliet Task Force** developed a Quality of Life Plan for strengthening the housing and retail markets on the city's east side that was enthusiastically adopted by the Joliet City Council.

A Community Building Initiative Task Force assisted the **City of Lake Forest** by developing a set of recommendations for how the city could apply its new inclusionary zoning ordinance to the redevelopment of the former Barat College.

MPC and its partners won passage of the **LEED-ND Green Neighborhood Grant Act** that will spur the development of sustainably designed, energy-efficient neighborhoods in Illinois.

MPC successfully advocated for **Good Housing Good Schools**, a state bill to give a funding bonus to school districts in municipalities that support multifamily housing.

MPC provided technical assistance on **employer-assisted housing** to clients in Wisconsin, California, New York, Florida, Pennsylvania, Georgia, Northwest Indiana, Mississippi, and Maryland, building a nationally recognized model.

MPC and the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, in collaboration with the Chicago Housing Authority, hosted seven **Building Successful Mixed-Income Communities** forums. Topics ranged from design and architecture, to transit and retail, to jobs and workforce development, to youth programming and engagement.

MPC was among the main sources for the *Chicago Tribune's* seven-part editorial series on the need for school funding and education quality reform in Illinois.

MPC's **Regional Housing Initiative** continued to provide affordable living opportunities, with funding for developments located near jobs and transit in Chicago, suburban Cook County, and north suburban Cook and Lake counties.

MPC's Community Building Initiative began a year-long partnership with seven communities along the **Calumet River**, the South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association, and Chicago Southland Economic Development Corporation, to help implement a vision strategy to use the Calumet River as an economic driver.

MPC and the Urban Land Institute — Chicago District Council conducted two **Technical Assistance Panels**. One explored the viability of a creative industries district in an historic industrial section of the Pilsen neighborhood. The other assisted the Pan-Asian Argyle Street corridor in the Edgewater/Uptown area, to cultivate and market its unique assets.

MPC and ULI-Chicago joined the **Village of Riverdale** to celebrate the groundbreaking of the redevelopment of Pacesetter into Whistler Crossing, a plan sparked by a 2003 TAP and nurtured by MPC.

After nine years of joint achievements, the **Campaign for Sensible Growth** declared victory and disbanded as a coalition as of 2008.

MPC partnered with The Chicago Community Trust and Center for Neighborhood Technology (CNT) to prepare reporters and producers for the **2008 Chicago Matters** series: Building a Sustainable Chicago Region.

MPC co-sponsored the inaugural **William O. Lipinski Transportation Symposium, Moving the Region in a New Direction**, a day-long conference on new approaches to planning, managing and financing transportation investments for the 21st Century.

MPC introduced **Re-Connection**, a new monthly, electronic newsletter to complement the printed quarterly *Regional Connection* newsletter and provide more frequent and timely updates on MPC's work.

MPC launched **Talking Transit**, a bimonthly e-newsletter sponsored by Bombardier, to share interesting facts and innovative ideas for improving public transit policies in metropolitan Chicago and throughout Illinois.

Three newspaper editorial boards supported MPC's position on **capital selection criteria**, with the *Chicago Tribune* feeling so strongly it weighed in twice.

MPC co-hosted a day-long conference on **water supply planning and governance**, attended by elected officials, water supply planning groups, utilities, agriculture interests, and state agencies.

MPC co-hosted a forum on **Great Lakes megaregion** infrastructure priorities, as part of the America 2050 project, featuring U.S. Reps. Earl Blumenauer (D-Ore.) and Tom Petri (R-Wis.), as well as Canadian Minister of Defense Peter McKay.

More than 300 employees participating in **REACH Illinois** EAH programs closed on homes, and nearly 900 employees enrolled in homebuyer counseling.

MPC President MarySue Barrett was an advisor to **President-elect Barack Obama's HUD Transition Team**.

Priorities 2009

MPC's four-point plan for prosperity

1. Let the sunshine in.

Increased government accountability and public investments that demonstrate significant returns.

2. Break out of silos.

Flexible public investment that encourages and rewards local and regional collaboration, coordination and innovation.

3. Invest in competitive, sustainable and equitable regions.

Support transportation networks that connect people to jobs, schools and affordable living options; protect and preserve natural resources; and prepare current and future workers with quality education opportunities.

4. Encourage private sector investment.

Explore targeted use of private funds to supplement public investment and target modest public funds to programs proven to leverage private sector investment.

The logo features a thin orange arc above the text. The word "Metropolitan" is in a standard weight, "Planning" is in a bold weight, and "Council" is in a standard weight.

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