

APPENDIX: ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Sponsorship and Acknowledgements

This draft economic development plan has been created by the City of Blue Island with broad support from business and community organizations and with assistance from the Center for Neighborhood Technology (CNT).

The Blue Island Working Group



In addition to gathering citizens' ideas through a community planning process described in this plan, the City formulated this plan with the active support of a Working Group of business and community leaders who met regularly with the professional team working on the project over nine months, helped to define the plan's proposals, and reviewed outlines and drafts. The Working Group will continue to meet until the final statement of the plan is adopted by the City Council and the plan moves into implementation. Members of the Working Group are:

- Martha Anderson, Creative Director, James Street Associates, Ltd.
- Fran Blouin, Executive Director, Main Street Blue Island
- Ken Brienzo, Partner, Project Quality Assurance, LLC
- Lois Cipalo, Blue Island Resident
- Reverend Peter Contreras, Minister of Bethel-Pentecostal Church and Director of CASA
- Bill Fahrenwald, Executive Director, James Street Associates
- Jim Jurik, Chief Lending Officer, Great Lakes Bank
- Erin Meana, Project Quality Assurance, LLC
- Michael E. Miller, Fleet Manager of Sutton Ford and President of the Fairway Meadows Neighborhood Property Owner Association
- Paul Nicola, Vice President, Great Lakes Bank
- Donald Peloquin, Mayor, Blue Island
- Mary Poulsen, Marketing Director, City of Blue Island

- Elias Rodriguez, CASA Member and Owner of the Blue Oasis Cafe
- Andy Rutz, Student
- Eda Schrimple, Director, Blue Island Chamber of Commerce
- David Seaman, CEO, Pronger Smith Medical Care
- Rene Valenciano, Principal, Lincoln School and President of CASA
- Dave Van Horn, VP, Strategy & Business Development, St. Francis Hospital & Health Center

Communications Committee

In addition to the services of the Working Group, the Communications Committee met and worked particularly to explain the planning process to neighborhood residents and to encourage participation in community meetings. Members of the Communications Committee are:

- Martha Anderson, James Street Associates, Ltd.
- Juanita Bailey, Fairway Meadows
- Sandy Erfft, Blue Island Main Street
- Sue Esparza, School District 130 and Blue Island Mexican-oriented stores
- Bill Fahrenwald, James Street Associates, Ltd.
- Liz Micoch, Blue Cap
- Donald Peloquin, Mayor, City of Blue Island
- Mary Poulsen, City of Blue Island and Eisenhower High School
- LyNita Turner, Fairway Meadows
- Ted Wahlberg, Resident/Copy Writer
- Peggy Walsh, St. Benedict and the Historical Area Neighbors

In addition to the contributions of Working Group Communications Committee members, fourteen owners or managers of significant businesses in Blue Island contributed an hour or more of their time in structured one-to-one interviews that gave the professional staff insight into the city's economy. More than one hundred Blue Island residents or other stakeholders attended at least one of three community meetings that gathered input and helped to create a vision for this plan. High school and junior high school students contributed to data collection. Staff of the City government tirelessly coordinated planning and research activities. All of their contributions are appreciated.

Center for Neighborhood Technology (CNT) Sponsors and Advisors

Project Sponsors

CNT's work on this project is generously funded by five private foundations: The Grand Victoria Foundation, the Joyce Foundation, the MacArthur Foundation, the Surdna Foundation, and the Union Pacific Foundation. CNT and City of Blue Island are grateful for their support.

Professional Support

Important professional roles in the development of this plan have been performed by two consulting firms subcontracted to CNT.

- **Farr Associates** coordinated community planning meetings and played an essential role in formulating the plan's proposals for transit-oriented development.

- **Transportation Knowledge** provided critical expertise in regard to freight transportation and shaping the plan's proposals for industrial development linked to freight transportation. Consultants from both of these firms have contributed much more than their fees required to the creation of Blue Island's plan.

Advisors

The City and CNT have also been ably assisted in the development of this plan by advisors with deep expertise regarding development, public transportation and freight transportation, urban planning, finance, and public policy. These advisors have served pro bono, reviewed data and rough problem statements regarding Blue Island's development, and met several times as a group to discuss the city's development challenges and offer suggestions. They are also reviewing this draft document. CNT and City of Blue Island are grateful to these advisors and the corporations and institutions they serve. They are:

- William Abolt, Shaw Environmental
- Alba Alexander, University of Illinois College of Urban Planning & Public Affairs (UIC CUPPA)
- Marcus Arnold, Transportation Planner, South Suburban Mayors & Managers Associates (SSMMA)
- Bruce Betts, Vice President for Business Development, Ozinga Transportation
- Jay Franke, Associate Director, Transportation Center, Northwestern University
- Benedetto Guido, President, Key Railroad Development
- J. Lee Hutchins, Team Leader, ENSR International
- Jacquelyn Paine, GVA Williams Industrial Realtor
- Julia Parzen, Private Consultant, TOD Financing
- Gerald Rawling, Director of Operations, Chicago Area Transportation Study
- Fred Reynolds, Senior Vice President Development, CenterPoint Properties
- William Reynolds, Senior Analyst, Regional Transit Authority (RTA)
- Dr. Brent D. Ryan, City Design Center and University of Illinois College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs
- Tony Smith, Senior Project Manager, S.B. Friedman & Company
- Joel Stauber, Consultant, Woolpert, LLC
- Joseph Szabo, Illinois Legislative Director, United Transportation Union
- William J. Trumbull, Vice President, McShane Construction
- Earl Wacker, CSX & Superintendent, Chicago Transportation Coordinating Office
- David Wilson, Principal, Transportation Knowledge
- Larry Wilson, President, Wilson Consulting
- Ruth Wuorenma, President, Neighborhood Capital Institute

Cooperating Agencies and Representatives

The City and CNT are grateful to public agencies and representatives at the county, regional, and state levels that have met with us during the development of this draft plan and offered their advice and cooperation. These helpful meetings have included sessions with representatives of Metra, Pace, the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), and the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (IDCEO). During the review of this draft plan and the plan's implementation, we look forward to working with these agency partners and to expanding the network of cooperation on this plan to other public agencies and representatives whose support is essential.