



For immediate release
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RTA Board Approves Strategic Plan Consultant

Chicago, Jan. 19– The Regional Transportation Authority Board of Directors today approved an ordinance to allow the Executive Director to negotiate a contract with PB Consult Inc. to develop a strategic plan for the RTA, the CTA, Metra and Pace.

With the assistance of PB Consult, a subsidiary of Parsons Brinckerhoff, the RTA and its Service Boards will develop a Comprehensive Strategic Transportation Plan. Three of the primary products to be delivered through this effort are the development of a five-year plan for the short-term needs of the region's public transportation system, a long-term plan for transit needs and the creation of an on-going process for long-term comprehensive and coordination public transit planning for the region.

In 2005, RTA Chairman Jim Reilly challenged the RTA staff to think creatively about the future and develop a strategic vision to grow transit using creative solutions for service development as well as funding and finance and articulate this vision to the legislators, taxpayers and riders. The RTA last updated its original strategic plan in 1994

In response to this challenge, RTA staff as well as staff from the CTA, Metra and Pace developed a request for qualifications (RFQ) for consulting services for the development of a strategic plan to develop and communicate a vision for the future of the region's transit system. Six firms responded to the RFQ and three were selected for interviews and ranked by a review committee that included staff from the RTA, the CTA, Metra and Pace. PB Consult was ranked by this committee as the most qualified to take on this challenge.

The Board approved negotiation of a contract with PB Consult for an amount not to exceed \$1.973 million. RTA staff and PB Consult will now finalize the contract and the scope of work and will present a full project timeline and milestones for the planning process to the Board at a later date.

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