

Innovation + Integration

A summit on the Economic Impact of Linking Jobs, Housing & Transportation Planning

Speaker Bio

Randall S. Blankenhorn

Executive Director, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

Randy Blankenhorn is executive director of CMAP, the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (<http://www.chicagoareaplanning.org>), which is responsible for land use and transportation planning across seven counties -- Cook, DuPage, Kane, Kendall, Lake, McHenry, and Will -- that make up northeastern Illinois.

He has over 20 years experience in the planning, development and implementation of transportation infrastructure projects for the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT). Before joining IDOT, he served at other state agencies, focusing primarily on policy development, personnel administration, and legislative affairs. As IDOT Bureau Chief of Urban Program Planning just prior to joining the CMAP in April 2006, he coordinated the activities of 14 metropolitan planning organizations across the State of Illinois.

In that role, he was responsible for a \$1.9 billion public transit operating and capital program; a \$145 million airport capital program; a \$15.5 million railroad capital program an \$18 million Intelligent Transportation System Deployment program; and a \$45 million planning program. These programs were developed in cooperation with the modal divisions of IDOT, local transit, airport and planning agencies, local elected officials, public interest and environmental organizations, and federal partners. His responsibilities included:

- Metropolitan planning and programming
- Developing airport, public transit and railroad capital programs
- Developing and programming Intelligent Transportation System projects
- Regional air quality and environmental planning
- Developing statewide transportation plans
- Deploying technology for mapping, graphics, and Geographic Information System
- Policy and legislative development and analysis
- Coordination of federal planning and programming activities

Through the efforts of Randy and his staff, Illinois has developed and maintained a model cooperative planning process between the state, federal agencies, metropolitan planning organizations and local officials. He was instrumental in broadening the scope of planning beyond transportation to include land use and development issues, economic analysis, community concerns and environmental consequences. Randy accomplished this through his work in developing the Balanced Growth Partnership that analyzed transportation and development issues in two corridors of northeastern Illinois and created a toolbox for local officials as they address growth issues.

Randy was also actively involved in the creation of the Illinois Tomorrow Corridor Planning Grant program, a ground breaking program that was the first of its kind nationally. The program provides \$15 million over five years to urban communities and counties for

improving the coordination of transportation, land use and land development planning. He was also part of the team that developed the state's context sensitive solutions policy that guides project development to better account for community and environmental concerns.

Randy has been active at the national level in transportation, land use and environmental planning efforts. Through the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), Randy served a two-year term on the TEA-21 Reauthorization Subcommittee. He serves on AASHTO's air quality subcommittee and special task force on transportation conformity and as been part of AASHTO negotiations related to Intelligent Transportation Systems, federal planning regulations, and consultation with local officials. The president of AASHTO has appointed Randy to a policy team that will help shape the findings of two Congressionally-created National Commissions on Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue.

Randy holds a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from Illinois State University and has completed 36 hours of graduate work in political studies at the University of Illinois-Springfield (Sangamon State University).