



News from
State Representative Franco Coladipietro

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Coladipietro Calls on Legislature to Pass Capital Plan

Springfield ... State Representative Franco Coladipietro (R-Bloomington) opposed mass transit legislation which narrowly passed the House. Rep. Coladipietro called on the legislature to move forward on a capital bill that would tie in funding for mass transit.

“The mass transit bills that were passed last night fall short of fixing our transportation infrastructure. The biggest problem with this legislation is that it completely ignores the needs and safety of 80% of the population which drives on our bridges, roads and highways on a daily basis. We need a capital plan that maintains and improves these infrastructures across the state to ensure that our residents are safe and keeps our state economy strong,” Coladipietro said.

Senate Bill 572 would have increased the sales tax in Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry and Will counties bringing in a projected \$500 million for the Regional Transit Authority (RTA). The RTA is comprised of the CTA, Metra and Pace. Forty-eight percent of the projected revenue would have been used for CTA operations.

In addition, the House passed Senate Bill 307 which would divert revenue from the state sales tax on gasoline to the RTA, resulting in a gap of \$385 million in the general revenue fund for 2008. The general revenue fund is used to subsidize the state’s social service and education programs.

“According to the Comptroller, the state currently holds a backlog of \$1.7 billion in unpaid bills. The last thing that the legislature should be passing is fiscally irresponsible legislation that would create a larger hole in the general revenue fund,” Coladipietro said. “We need the Democrat Speaker, Democrat Senate President and Governor Blagojevich to put aside their personal differences and come together to formulate a responsible solution to the mass transit and capital needs of our state.”

Senate Bill 572 and Senate Bill 307 passed in the House and now heads to the Senate for consideration. For additional information, Rep. Coladipietro can be contacted at (630) 582-0045.

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