



**News from**  
State Representative Franco Coladipietro

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**Coladipietro Rejects Tax Increases to Bail Out CTA**

**Springfield** ... Stressing the need for proper oversight and fiscal restraint, State Representative Franco Coladipietro (R-Bloomington) voted against an increase in Cook and DuPage county's sales tax and Chicago's real estate transfer tax to bail out the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA).

"Mass transit is an integral part to the State of Illinois transportation policy. As part of the mass transit reform package, the legislature should also focus on proposing a capital bill that will help maintain and improve our roads and bridges," Coladipietro said. "The current mass transit structure does not meet the needs of all my constituents in the suburbs. The cold, hard facts are that 80% of residents drive on our roads and bridges. We can no longer hide from our crumbling infrastructure and our congested roads."

Senate Bill 572 would have increased the sales tax in Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry and Will counties bringing in a projected \$400 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 with the rest being split between Metra & Pace. In addition, this bill would have allowed the Chicago City Council to increase its real estate transfer tax - bringing in an estimated \$100 million for only CTA operations.

"The federal transportation bill of 2005 called for Illinois to receive between \$6-7 billion in federal funds over six years. However before Illinois receives the federal funds, they have to appropriate matching state dollars for the various road projects. Without a capital bill, there is no guarantee that the State will be able to collect these precious federal dollars," Coladipietro said.

Senate Bill 572 failed in the House, and the Governor previously had stated that he would veto the legislation. For additional information, Rep. Coladipietro can be contacted at (630) 582-0045.

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