

# 2008 Policy Agenda

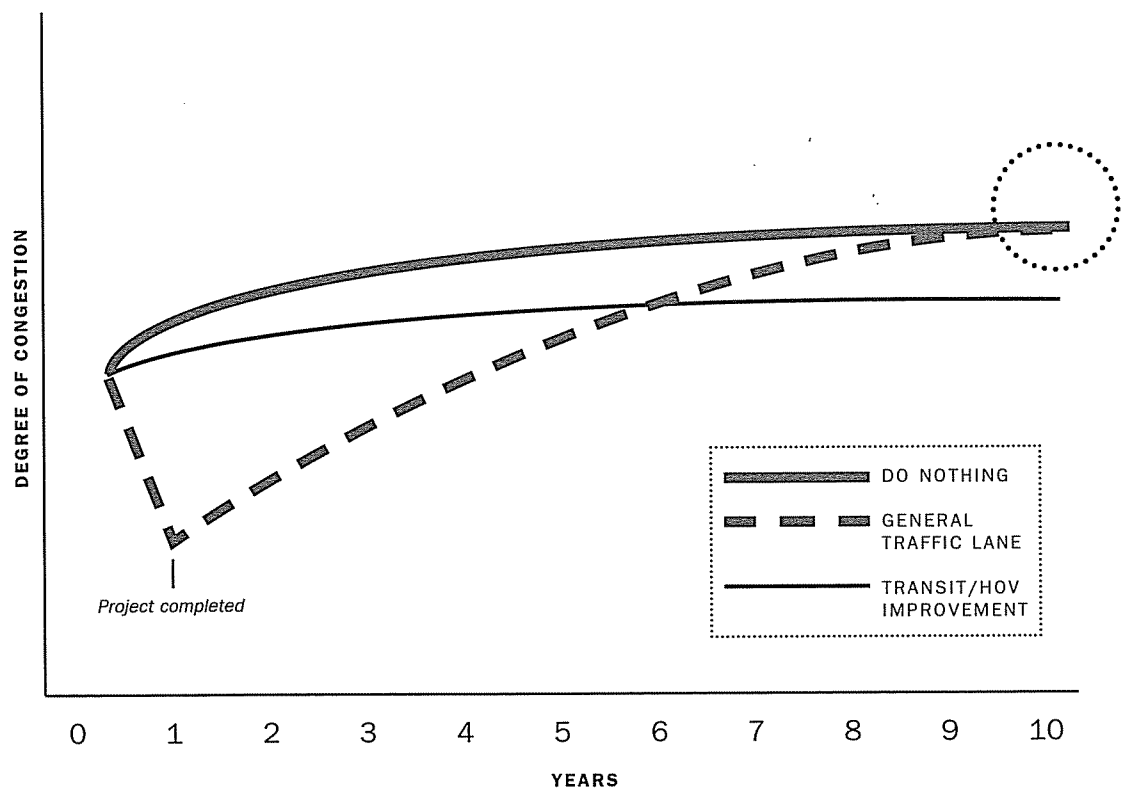
Every year, U.S. regions spend billions of dollars on transportation-related improvements, investments that can have a profound effect on where people choose to live and work. Easy access draws people to a place, which is a good thing, because regions must grow to prosper.

Yet multiple studies have shown that simply building more roads does not increase access in the long run. In fact, within 10 years of building a new road, gridlock rebounds to pre-road levels, and a region is no better off than when it began.<sup>1</sup>

For northeastern Illinois to break out of this vicious cycle of “gridlock-investment-gridlock,” MPC advocates for a number of policy changes that would improve upon Illinois’ current approach to selecting and financing transportation investments.

## Road Widening Doesn't Work

Road widening projects over the last 15 years have done virtually nothing to mitigate traffic congestion in major urban areas, according to an analysis by the Texas Transportation Institute's annual report on metropolitan traffic congestion.<sup>2</sup>



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