

MEMORANDUM

To: CMAP Board

From: The Century Plan project team

Date: February 11, 2026

Subject: The Century Plan update

Action Requested: Information

Through The Century Plan, CMAP is bringing together voices across government, civic spheres, business, and local communities to grapple with questions on how northeastern Illinois has changed in recent years and what we need to plan for our shared future. This engagement includes hosting a series of large public forums on pressing issues for the region's future development as well as discussions with local mayors and managers on what to prioritize in the plan. To begin, CMAP has assembled a report that surfaces major trends that impact residents' quality of life, including topics like:

- Transportation
- Jobs and the economy
- Population and households
- Housing
- Cost of living
- Natural resources

[The State of the Region report](#) will support conversations on what the region must do together to thrive over the next 20 to 30 years. Beginning in March 2026, CMAP staff will work with each Council of Government to gather input on how these trends are manifesting at a local level and how they are affecting priorities already identified in recent local and subregional plans. Together with findings from other research and engagement, these insights will shape the overall direction for The Century Plan and grand challenges that the plan will seek to address.

Staff will provide an overview of key trends explored in the *State of the Region* report as well as upcoming outreach to the Councils of Government.

ACTION REQUESTED: Information