



May 1, 2025

RE: CMAP Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) FY 2026-2030 Public Comments

Submitted TO: CMAP Transportation Committee

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the transportation spending projects (CMAQ, TAP-L and STP-SF programs).

Grow Greater Englewood (GGE) is writing to first thank you for your administrative and capital spending support on a host of projects throughout Greater Englewood, especially the scheduled Englewood Nature Trail, and Complete Streets Programming along South Halsted and West 63rd Streets.

While reviewing the Transportation projects entered across the region, we are pleased to see continual interest to pursue congestion mitigation dollars for Redline Extension facilities, Metra Electric Switch Locomotives, battery equipment capacity the 47th Yard, various station development applications and federal request to extend the 606 Trail.

Today, we encourage your office to improve conditions in the region by amending one or more Federal "Call for Projects" programs to satisfy capital spending needs in the Greater Englewood district. In December 2024, we shared these requests with both the CTA and CDOT.

Grow Greater Englewood (GGE) is a social enterprise food and land sovereignty organization working to ensure healthy and productive living in the Southwest Region of Chicago. GGE is engaged in urban farming, open space strategies, transportation and health equity, and recently established a Community Land Trust organization.

We believe, alongside a host of organizations, elected officials, and civic and institutional leaders, that the Greater Englewood district should have projects in position to receive Federal funding. Across the district exist transportation projects that require either Surface Transportation, Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality, Carbon Reduction Programming, or Local Transportation Alternatives.

The district includes a host of local and federally recognized zones that warrants a level of consideration in order to remedy past public inequities. Important to the Federal Call for Projects is that Englewood falls within the Cohorts #4 categories that allow for minimum requirements for local projects.

We wish to recommend the following projects for potential programming under the Federal Call for Projects FY 2026-2030:

- Complete Streets Programming (51st to 59th Street along Halsted Street) Possibly the Access to Transit Program!
- Nature Trail Expansion (Hamilton Rd. Pathway from 59th to 71st Street) – Bike Path adjacent to CSX Railroad Operations
- Bus Infrastructure Programming (Garfield Blvd., Western Ave. to CTA Jackson Park Green Line at King Dr.) (A Chicago delegation visited Madison, WI to experience its Bus Rapid Transit/BRT system).
- Historic Racine Station (CTA Englewood Green Line) Reconstruction (\$2 million was appropriated by Congressman Jackson) – This is a great candidate for All Accessible Station Programming! Also, Rebuild Illinois funding should be appropriated.
- CTA Green Line Englewood Under Rail Greening Project (2 miles) and station improvements at Ashland Av.

The above projects warrant CMAP staff consideration. It's important that we introduce more alternative transportation and green infrastructure projects to Chicago's Southwest Region in order to modernize existing structures, reduce traffic fatalities, build out ADA compliance, and to reset regional access to opportunities that currently exist but were historically out of reach to disadvantaged communities.

To this end, we look forward to sharing ideas and information with your agency. We are confident that you will fully consider our public request. If any questions arise, feel free to contact me at connect@growgreater.org.

Thank you,

L. Anton Seals Jr.



Lead Steward (Executive Director)
Grow Greater Englewood
www.growgreater.org

cc: Greater Englewood Elected Officials
CTA Board and Planning Staff
Commissioner, CDOT
Center for Neighborhood Technology
Chicago Metropolitan Area for Planning (CMAP)
Transportation Equity Network (TEN)
Urban Land Institute
Northwestern University
DePaul University