



Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

Agenda Item 2.01

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MEMORANDUM

To: CMAP Board
From: Erin Aleman, Executive Director
Date: June 2025
Subject: Executive Director's report
Action Requested: Information

Dear Board Members,

This report provides an update ahead of our June meeting with the goal of greater transparency to CMAP's work and to supplement the agenda.

Should you have questions regarding this report, please feel free to reach out to me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Erin Aleman', is positioned above the printed name.

Erin Aleman

State legislative update

On the legislative front, it's been a very busy spring. Details can be found in the Legislative memo on the agenda and staff will provide an update at the June meeting.

Planning in high demand: more than 80 applications for technical assistance

CMAP and the Regional Transit Authority (RTA) are excited to share that this year's call for projects for [technical assistance](#) resulted in another historically high number of applications. This program assists communities with planning and implementation, provides interagency expertise that can build up their capacity, and helps them better leverage the region's transit network.

More than 80 applications were received from 69 jurisdictions. This high level of interest reflects the need that communities throughout northeastern Illinois have for quality planning assistance. The three categories that received the highest number of applications included ADA self-evaluation and transition plans, capital improvement plans, and corridor plans.

CMAP and the RTA have selected the 2025 project group and staff will provide an update at the June meeting.

May/June meetings recap: *Transportation Committee, MPO Policy Committee, Climate Committee, Council of Mayors Executive Committee*

The day after the Board's June meeting, the MPO Policy Committee will meet. They will receive an update on the Regional Transportation Plan and Vision planning process and preview early insights from the existing conditions assessment phase, which will help define the region's challenges and opportunities, inform regional planning efforts and give context for future-focused discussions. We will also provide a legislative update.

On May 30th, the Transportation Committee met, with presentations and discussions centered on advancing critical regional funding and planning efforts that support safety, infrastructure, and air quality improvements across the region. Key items included approval of federal funding suballocations and multiple TIP amendments to ensure timely project delivery, alongside endorsement of regional federal funding programs like TAP, CMAQ and the STP Shared Fund to mitigate congestion, expand our bike/ped network, and enhance transportation alternatives.

The committee also reviewed the MPO's federally required self-certification, and approved the recommendation to send the final Safe Streets for All action plans to MPO for adoption, and received updates on the 2026 Regional Transportation Plan's Existing Conditions Report.

Immediately following the Transportation Committee meeting, the MPO Policy Committee held a special meeting to review and adopt six county safety action plans. CMAP was awarded a \$4 million Safe Streets and Roads for All grant in 2023 to help create safety action plans for Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry, and Will counties with a grant deadline of May 2025. The completion of these plans opens the door to apply for federal funding to advance

implementation. More information on these plans can be found on the Safe Travel for All [website](#).

The Climate Committee met on May 22, and approved the fiscal year 2026 schedule and reappointed Aaron Durnbaugh as chair and Mary Nicol as vice chair. Members heard updates about the Regional Transportation Plan emerging priorities report and the plan's nexus to the agency's environmental work. Staff updated the committee on the CAP development progress. Next, staff will vet modeling results and community impacts with working groups and begin drafting the plan. The committee meets next for a workshop on July 17.

The Council of Mayors Executive Committee met June 3rd and received updates on CMAP's Socioeconomic Forecast, the Northeastern Illinois Development Database Job Quality and Access Tool and CMAQ, STP-SF, and TAP-L programs. The committee also approved updated bylaws that bring this body's bylaws in line with those of other CMAP advisory committees and give the Committee greater flexibility to convene for the purpose of providing local guidance and expertise to CMAP.

Visit CMAP's [public meetings website](#) for agenda materials and video recordings of these meetings.

TRIP project solicitations

CMAP is collecting transportation resilience projects to include in the Transportation Resilience Improvement Plan (TRIP) project list. The deadline for submissions was yesterday. This project list will be the region's first compilation of transportation resilience projects and will help position the region to be more competitive for federal investment opportunities, including the Federal Highway Administration's Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (or PROTECT) Discretionary Grant Program.

Project solicitations were sent to transportation implementers, including planning liaisons for the councils of mayors and councils of governments. We are asked for projects from stormwater and emergency management implementers at the counties and the City of Chicago.

Illinois Highway Safety Improvement Program

The [Illinois Highway Safety Improvement Program \(HSIP\)](#) is currently accepting applications. HSIP aims to significantly reduce fatalities and serious injuries from traffic crashes statewide through a data-driven, performance-focused approach. Administered in partnership with the Federal Highway Administration, HSIP prioritizes safety improvements on all public roads, with special attention to rural roads and vulnerable populations like older drivers and pedestrians.

The fiscal year 2027 local HSIP application process is open now, until June 20th. IDOT intends to commit \$32.75 million during the 2027 cycle. More details are available in the Bureau of Local Roads and Streets Circular Letter available on idot.illinois.gov.

CAGTC press release: CMAP Executive Director elevated to Board Chair at Coalition for America's Gateways and Trade Corridors (CAGTC) annual meeting and conference

In addition to leading the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) as its Executive Director, Erin Aleman is bringing her leadership and expertise to a national coalition dedicated to increasing federal investment in America's multimodal freight infrastructure.

As the newly elected board chair of the [Coalition for America's Gateways and Trade Corridors \(CAGTC\)](#), Erin will represent the voice of the Chicago region — the nation's premier freight hub — and champion the need for federal freight funding and policy objectives that will benefit the U.S. economy, workforce, and supply chain. Her term is three years.