

MEMORANDUM

To: CMAP Board

From: CMAP Staff

Date: April 30, 2025

Subject: I-290 Blue Line Corridor Development Office update

Action Requested: Information

Purpose

CMAP will provide an update on the significant progress of the I-290 Blue Line Corridor Development Office (CDO) made with our partners program development and delivery.

Background

In January 2024, CMAP, IDOT, and CTA entered a Joint Statement of Understanding and a funding agreement that was formalized in agency budgets to leverage the desire of each agency to progress the I-290 Blue Line Corridor program forward.

In September 2024, after a formal RFP process, the CMAP Board approved entering into a contract with the consultant team assembled by CDM Smith. This team is responsible for coordinating day to day operations and strategic development of the Corridor Development Office (“CDO”) in partnership with the project implementers, IDOT and CTA.

Corridor Program Visioning

A unified vision for the mainline Corridor Program has been established by the CDO and its partners. This work was facilitated by the Program Servicer team through a series of workshops and inter-agency meetings with key program stakeholders. The vision accounts for both existing and planned projects as well as future enhancement projects, providing framework and consistency to help inform project inclusion and delivery methods.

We have developed an initial Program branding and communication plan including the creation of a Program Name. In February we launched the Advocacy Committee who meet monthly to discuss community outreach and initial engagement with Corridor municipalities and stakeholders as well as materials needed to support engagement efforts.

Program Administration and Project Delivery

The CDO has undertaken a thorough and comprehensive review of existing plans and projects. Synthesizing key project details such as cost, sequencing and scheduling after conducting multiple one-on-one discovery meetings. In the last quarter the Implementation Working Group was launched providing a forum for jurisdictional owners and corridor service providers to discuss and coordinate existing enabling project work as well as a space to address common delivery issues and provide strategic direction for future projects.

The CDO has provided initial briefings and educational workshops on various funding, financing and delivery options. We have been engaging in one-on-one meetings with lead agency partners to understand their current needs and ongoing funding commitments and obligations as well as future opportunities.

Next Steps

This summer, we will have a soft launch of Program branding, including launching a website. The CDO partners will also be working to develop detailed cost estimates, project sequencing and creation of master program schedule for existing, planned and enhancement component projects. The Program servicer team has almost completed their review of existing project plans, potential funding gaps and existing funding/financing programs. They will continue to a more detailed review of funding and financing options identified by key partners for further development as well as to begin facilitating discussions on how the Program may be leveraged to further regional policy conversations around CMP, Tolling and new streams of transit funding. The second half of the calendar year will also see the start to strategic and comprehensive outreach to corridor communities and other critical stakeholders to integrate existing planned projects, identify gaps, provide technical assistance and coordinate project delivery.