

**Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning Northwestern**

**Indiana Regional Planning Commission Illinois**

**Department of Transportation**

**Indiana Department of Transportation**

**Cooperative Agreement for Coordination of Land Use-Transportation  
Planning in the Chicago/Gary/Lake County, IL-IN Urbanized Area**

This Cooperative Agreement is made and entered into this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2024, by and among the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP), Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC), Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) and Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT).

Whereas, CMAP and the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Policy Committee carry out a continuous, cooperative and comprehensive planning program for northeastern Illinois and the MPO Policy Committee is designated by the Governor and northeastern Illinois officials as being responsible, together with IDOT, for carrying out the provisions of 23 U.S. Code 134 and 49 U.S. Code 5303-06 for seven counties in northeastern Illinois and parts of Grundy and DeKalb Counties; and

Whereas, NIRPC, a governmental body created pursuant to the provisions of Indiana Code Title 36, Article VII, Chapter 7 of the *Indiana Statutes*, carries out a comprehensive and cooperative area wide land use-transportation planning process, and is the MPO for northwestern Indiana as designated by the Governor and northwestern Indiana officials as being responsible together with INDOT, for carrying out the provision of 23 U.S. Code 134 and 49 U.S. Code 5303-06 for three counties in Northwestern Indiana; and

Whereas, CMAP, NIRPC, IDOT and INDOT actively coordinate land use and transportation planning along the border between the States of Illinois and Indiana in their respective jurisdictions; and

Whereas, CMAP, NIRPC, IDOT and INDOT coordinate planning activities and carry out such activities cooperatively so that principal metropolitan area planning products reflect consistency with best practices and with broader bi-state goals; and

Whereas, the U.S. Bureau of the Census has identified a bi-state urbanized area of over 200,000 population that incorporates portions of the existing planning jurisdictions of CMAP and NIRPC, and has identified such area as the "Chicago, IL-IN Urbanized Area" (Chicago Area); and

Whereas, Will and Cook Counties are included in the Chicago Metropolitan Planning Area for the purpose of achieving coordinated land use, transportation and air quality management planning in the State of Illinois; and

Whereas, portions of Lake and Porter Counties are included in the Northwest Indiana Metropolitan Planning Area for purposes of achieving coordinated land use,

transportation and air quality management planning in the State of Indiana; and

Whereas, as a practical matter, the existing planning processes in both Illinois and Indiana are fully adequate to meet all the Federal planning requirements that may attach to the Chicago Area as a result of the designation of that Area as one having more than 200,000 population following the 2020 decennial Census.

Now, therefore; in consideration of these premises and of their mutual and dependent needs, the parties hereto contract and agree as follow:

**First:** That CMAP, NIRPC, IDOT and INDOT hereby agree to continue to coordinate planning activities and end products, including annual work programs, transportation plans and transportation improvement programs, transportation performance data, including monitoring and selecting of targets, and National Highway System asset management planning for their respective planning jurisdictions, thereby fully meeting the Federal planning requirements that attach to the Chicago Area given its status as an urbanized area of over 200,000 population. The agencies shall coordinate establishing for their respective planning jurisdictions MPO performance measure targets in accordance with Federal performance measure requirements. This coordination will be achieved by periodic meetings of the regional planning agency Executive Directors, and subsequent interagency staff meetings as called for by the Executive Directors. In addition, each agency shall have a representative on the other agency's transportation committee. The MPOs shall also share their draft and final overall work programs and transportation improvement programs, and reporting of transportation performance metrics, including the monitoring of targets.

**Second:** That CMAP, NIRPC, IDOT and INDOT hereby agree to take appropriate steps within the Illinois and Indiana portions of the Chicago area, respectively to ensure – through the transportation improvement programming processes – the fair and appropriate distribution of any Federal transportation funds for highways and transit that may be sub-allocated to the Illinois and Indiana portions of the Chicago Area, and to keep each other informed as to the disposition and use of such funds within the Chicago Area. With regard to the Federal Transit Administration funds allocated to the Northwest Indiana urbanized area, the funds will be allocated to the Illinois and Northwest Indiana areas as per the Letter of Understanding between the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) and NIRPC. The funds will be so allocated to the RTA as the transit funding agency for the northeastern Illinois and to NIRPC as the MPO for the northwest Indiana urbanized area. The allocation of funds between Illinois and Indiana shall annually be agreed upon by the RTA and NIRPC and endorsed by CMAP.

**Third:** That CMAP, NIRPC, IDOT and INDOT hereby agree to provide notification to each other of any planning and related events and activities that may have significant bearing upon the outcome of land use and transportation system development in northeastern Illinois or northwestern Indiana.

**Fourth:** That CMAP, NIRPC, IDOT and INDOT hereby agree to resolve conflicts that may arise by decision of a committee consisting of the Executive Director of CMAP, the Executive Director of NIRPC, the District Engineer of IDOT District 1 and the La Porte District Deputy Director of INDOT.

In Witness whereof, the hereto have caused this agreement to be executed by their proper officers and representatives.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jennifer Killen  
Vice Chair, CMAP MPO Policy Committee

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Date

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Thomas Dermody  
Chair, Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission

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Date

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Omer Osman  
Secretary, Illinois Department of Transportation

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Date

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Michael Smith  
Commissioner, Indiana Department of Transportation

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Date