



Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

Agenda Item 2.01

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MEMORANDUM

To: CMAP Board

From: Erin Aleman, Executive Director

Date: October 2, 2024

Subject: Executive Director's report

Action Requested: Information

Dear Board Members,

This report provides an update ahead of our September 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'.

Erin Aleman

Safe Travel for All engagement this fall

The [Safe Travel for All](#) statewide initiative to eliminate traffic fatalities and serious injuries in northeastern Illinois has a robust engagement schedule for this fall. This first-of-its-kind initiative will develop a regional traffic safety framework and countywide safety action plans for six counties in the region. Completing these safety action plans will also open opportunities for federal funding for traffic safety improvements.

All six counties' EngagementHQ websites are now live for [Cook](#), [DuPage](#), [Kane](#), [Lake](#), [McHenry](#), and [Will](#), with interactive safety hot-spot maps, surveys, and in-person events. Various in person/hybrid/virtual events will be popping up in municipalities throughout the region. We're reaching out to all your communities and counties to help promote these public events and encourage you to also visit your county's page.

Call for Transportation Projects

We're excited to announce that the next call for transportation projects will open on October 21. CMAP has four federal funding programs that we facilitate to distribute dollars for eligible project applications. They include:

- The *Carbon Reduction Program*, funding projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions from surface transportation sources
- The *Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program*, funding projects that reduce vehicle emissions leading to ozone pollution and help relieve traffic congestion
- The *Surface Transportation Program-Shared Fund*, supporting large and lasting projects that contribute to regional transportation priorities such as bridge rehabilitations, corridor safety improvements, and transit station improvements
- And the *Transportation Alternatives Program*, funding non-motorized transportation projects that help complete the Regional Greenways and Trail Plan.

We will provide additional information on our website as we get closer to our launch and announce it via our newsletters and social media accounts.

Household travel survey

A reminder that CMAP's [Household Travel Survey](#), also known as My Daily Travel, launched this month. This travel survey helps us understand how local roads, highways, public transit, bike lanes, and sidewalks are used today, and how they can be improved to make travel better in the future.

The survey is by invitation only, and letters to selected residents across the region have started going out this week. We hope to hear back from at least 4,000 households, so we continue to collaborate with our partners, counties, and municipalities on ways to get the word out to help validate our efforts.

The survey will run through spring of 2025. You can visit MyDailyTravelSurvey.com to learn more.

CMAP engagements

Sharing our work and lessons learned with peers across the region and country is key as we collaborate to solve shared challenges. CMAP continues to inform, collaborate, and convene, with recent engagement events and conferences including:

- **Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO) in Salt Lake City, UT:** Transportation Deputy Aimee Lee presented the Plan of Action for Regional Transit and its

recommendations as our region's response to the looming transit fiscal cliff. She also joined a panel discussion held at AMPO's annual conference on transit funding challenges across the country, alongside peers from the Bay Area and Washington, D.C. region.

- **IL-APA State Conference in Champaign, IL:** CMAP had a significant presence at the annual conference. Planner Lily Brack moderated two panel discussions: a case study about the Envision Ford Heights Strategic Plan and the Logan Square Blue Line transit action plan and a panel about Cook County's use of ARPA funds for capital investments in under-resourced municipalities. Principal Elizabeth Scott led a discussion about the challenges facing public transit using the Plan of Action for Regional Transit as a case study. Principal Jaemi Jackson facilitated a speed planning session. And new CMAP planner Gabriel Guevara won the APA-IL's Emerging Planner award.
- **APWA Chicago Metro Chapter and its City Branch:** Public and private sector partners welcomed special guests visiting from Australia who shared insights about their local government transportation and infrastructure, circular economy, engagement and more. CMAP's Deputy of Communications and Engagement Jennie Vana served as emcee.

Planning Technical Assistance updates

CMAP is kicking off the first phase of 30 [technical assistance projects](#) awarded earlier this year in areas such as traffic safety improvement, increasing access to opportunities, and strengthening transportation choice. ADA transition plans were also included in this year's award pool and those projects are now kicking off to support improvements that protect bicyclists and pedestrians, position communities to apply for grant opportunities, and address long-term planning needs.

A few exciting technical assistance project updates include:

- The [Reimagine River Grove](#) comprehensive plan was adopted by the village in September. Over the next two decades, the plan will serve as the village's north star as it makes decisions regarding land use, community development, transportation, economic development, and green space improvements.
- The [Round Lake Beach Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan](#) is now available. The Round Lake City Council adopted the plan at their August meeting.
- A [draft of City of Harvey's Comprehensive Plan](#) is now available, with the Harvey City Council considering adoption in the next few months.
- Development of the [Austin Central Avenue Action Plan](#) is in its final stages, expected to be published in October.
- The [Lansing Capital Improvement Plan](#) is now complete, adopted by the Village of Lansing in September. The plan will assist Lansing in determining capital projects needed over the next decade, especially in the timing, financing, and in some cases, locations where projects should occur. This plan was part of a successful pilot project to bring participatory budgeting (PB) into capital improvement planning. Through PB a new sidewalk repair program has been started in Lansing and incorporated into their CIP over the next five years.
- CMAP's Capital Improvement Plan work, alongside engineering consultant Jacobs, won Highly Commended in [Environment Analyst's "Creating Resilient & Sustainable Communities Award"](#) category this summer. CMAP has partnered with Jacobs since 2021 to assist eight low-capacity communities across the metropolitan area to improve their capital planning processes to be more climate resilient and equitable.

Council of Mayors Executive Committee met in September

The Council of Mayors Executive Committee – which includes representatives from each of the eleven regional councils of mayors – met on September 24. In response to Committee members' feedback, the Committee began a multi-meeting discussion of the complex transportation funding process. The September agenda also included an introduction to the socioeconomic forecast that serves as an anchor for development of the Regional Transportation Plan. The Committee's November agenda will include a discussion of severe weather trends in northeastern Illinois and how municipalities and CMAP meet those challenges.

Q1 FY2025 Communications and Engagement metrics report

CMAP Communications and Engagement team informs and influences through various platforms — meeting our partners where they are — and these quarterly metrics reports capture the agency's extensive work engaging with our many stakeholders. This strategy includes traditional print/digital media (captured in media hits below), social media (LinkedIn, Facebook, Instagram, and Threads), and content newsletters (on topics like accessibility, climate, transportation, safety, and more) to keep our stakeholders informed, not only about issues that interest them but also opportunities and successes throughout the region. It also includes a robust engagement events calendar and the EngagementHQ platform, which helps gather community input and keep residents engaged with our projects throughout the region.

CMAP Communications & Engagement

Social/newsletters metrics

Q1 FY2025: July-September



10 newsletters

Topics including accessibility, regional economy, transportation, and more



15,088

Total unique newsletter opens



177,136

Social media impressions

Across Instagram, LinkedIn, and Facebook

CMAP Communications & Engagement

Engagement metrics

Q1 FY2025: July-September



45 events in 6 counties

Highlights included meetings with agency partners and stakeholders, community events for planning projects, executive director's speaking engagements, meetings with legislators, and meetings of the Community Alliance for Regional Equity.



9,600

Engagement HQ site visits

985

New contributions, with ~10.26% of visitors contributing to projects

CMAP Communications & Engagement

Media mentions

Q1 FY2025: July-September



46 media mentions

[Transit agency Leaders push back on calls to merge Pace, CTA, Metra](#)

Daily Herald

[Show them the money: Transit agencies want infusions of cash without reforms](#)

Chicago Sun-Times

[Editorial: Chicago needs transit reform now](#)

Crain's Chicago Business

[Chicago's public transit fiscal crisis needs more attention \(Opinion, Kate Lowe\)](#)

Chicago Tribune

[Transit-friendly DuSable Lake Shore Drive is critical to improving Bus Service \(commentary\)](#)

Chicago Sun-Times

[New hybrid, compressed natural gas buses coming to Springfield area thanks to \\$17.8M grant](#)

The Lincoln Courier

CMAP Communications & Engagement

Media mentions

Q1 FY2025: July-September



[CTA President: 'The governance model is not the problem here' – RTA Chair: 'Funding cures most ills'](#)

Capitol Fax

['No new revenue without reform'](#)

Chicago Reader

[The CTA's missing riders](#)

Chicago Reader

[Chicago's bike path expansion keeps city on track for a sustainable future](#)

The Optimist Daily

[Paris on Politics: Talking Transit](#)

Fox 32 Chicago

[Homestead exemptions: How to save on property taxes](#)

Austin Weekly News

[South Shore residents want protection from housing price increases near Obama Center](#)

Chicago Tribune

[BTS Updates Datasets to National Transportation Atlas Database, Summer 2024](#)

USDOT's Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS)

CMAP Communications & Engagement

Media mentions

Q1 FY2025: July-September



[Now that you own a home, what's next?](#)

Austin Weekly News

[TCA Health Opens New Medical Clinic in Hegewisch, Chicago](#)

Iowa News Headlines

[IL environmentalists hope federal grant lowers emissions](#)

Public News Service

[Methodology – A new Chinatown: Demographics, business landscapes evolve in Chicago's 11th ward](#)

Medill Reports Chicago

[The language in which they dream](#)

Chicago Reader

[Chicago reveals climate havens don't exist – they must be created](#)

Great Lakes Now

[Leveraging Greenspace to Manage Urban Flooding: An Investigation of Nature-Based Solutions](#)

[Implementation in U.S. Public Parks](#)

MDPI (Multidisciplinary Digital Publishing Institute)

CMAP Communications & Engagement

Media mentions

Q1 FY2025: July-September



[Chicago school board election 2024: Here are the candidates running in District 5](#)

Chalkbeat Chicago

[Chicago stops using controversial ShotSpotter gunshot detection system/](#)

The Record

[Daily Herald opinion: It's not just on the open highway where excessive speed kills](#)

Daily Herald

[Will County Kicks Off Safety Action Plan](#)

Will County press release

[Get on the bus! Advocates and organizations urge Mayor Johnson to take action to save the Greyhound Terminal](#)

Streetsblog Chicago

[The Active Transportation Alliance is helping Illinois communities win ITEP grants for walk/bike projects](#)

Streetsblog Chicago

CMAP Communications & Engagement

Media mentions

Q1 FY2025: July-September



'We Need To Pump Brakes' Before Heading Into Roundabout Construction, Village Trustee Says
Patch

Keep calm if you see this van
The Free Press Newspapers

Will County seeks feedback on unsafe areas for driving, biking and walking
Daily Southtown/Chicago Tribune

Joliet Working with Regional Group to Survey Residents on Travel Needs
1340 WJOL

Daily travel survey underway this fall in Lake County
Shaw Local News Network

Environment Board hears Ryan Field report, submits Envision Evanston letter
Evanston RoundTable

Topgolf planned to anchor 100-acre Tinley Park entertainment district near Credit 1 venue
Chicago Tribune

CMAP Communications & Engagement

Media mentions

Q1 FY2025: July-September



[Chicago from the Air: A City at Work \(TV news segment\)](#)

WTTW

[ACT announces membership awards](#)

Austin Weekly News

[First-of-Its Kind Workforce Housing Project Breaks Ground in West Suburban Bellwood](#)

The Southland Journal

[Commission votes 4-2 to approve ADU proposed by District 65 board member](#)

Evanston RoundTable

[Frank Lloyd Wright's Walser House in Austin: looking for a new lease on life](#)

Wednesday Journal of Oak Park and River Forest

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