



**COUNCIL OF MAYORS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**AGENDA**

Tuesday, March 26, 2024

9:30 AM

**Cook County Conference Room  
433 West Van Buren Street, Suite 450  
Chicago, IL 60607**

Members of the public who attend in-person can pre-register for a visitor's pass at [info@cmap.illinois.gov](mailto:info@cmap.illinois.gov) until IDENTIFY DATE ONE DAY BEFORE MEETING at 4:00 p.m. or should plan to arrive early to check-in with the building's information desk for access.

You can also join from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86494156956?pwd=iZyEjxaeD1Tjx3UPbskXl0fmnvnpr.1>

Conference call number: +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 864 9415 6956

Passcode: 460961

CMAF provides the opportunity for public comment. Individuals are encouraged to submit comment by email to [info@cmap.illinois.gov](mailto:info@cmap.illinois.gov) at least 24 hours before the meeting. A record of all written public comments will be maintained and made publicly available.

The total cumulative time for public comment is limited to 15 minutes, unless determined otherwise by the Chair. Public comment is limited to three minutes per person unless the Chair designates a longer or shorter time period. Public comments will be invited in this order: Comments from in person attendees submitted ahead of time; comments from in-person attendees not previously submitted; comments from virtual attendees submitted ahead of time; and comments from virtual attendees not previously submitted.

To review CMAF's public participation policy, please visit <https://www.cmap.illinois.gov/committees>.

If you require a reasonable accommodation or language interpretation services to attend or join the meeting, please contact CMAF at least five days before the meeting by email ([info@cmap.illinois.gov](mailto:info@cmap.illinois.gov)) or phone (312-454-0400).

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- 1.0 Call To Order**
- 2.0 Approval of Minutes**
- 2.1 Minutes from November 7, 2023** [24-031](#)  
ACTION REQUESTED: Approval  
**Attachments:** [DRAFT CoM Minutes 11.7.23](#)
- 3.0 CMAP Announcements**
- 3.1 CMAP Update** [24-023](#)  
PURPOSE & ACTION: CMAP leadership will provide an update on recent agency actions.  
ACTION REQUESTED: Information
- 4.0 New Business**
- 4.1 IDOT Bureau of Local Roads** [24-024](#)  
PURPOSE & ACTION: IDOT Local Roads Staff will provide an update.  
ACTION REQUESTED: Information
- 4.2 STP Projection Selection Committee** [24-026](#)  
PURPOSE & ACTION: CMAP staff will provide an update on activities of the STP Project Selection Committee.  
ACTION REQUESTED: Information
- 4.3 STAR: Transportation Safety Program Update** [24-029](#)  
PURPOSE & ACTION: CMAP staff will provide an update on recent transportation safety actions and initiatives.  
ACTION REQUESTED: Information
- 4.4 Legislative Update** [24-096](#)  
PURPOSE & ACTION: CMAP staff with provide an update on legislative efforts to secure a state appropriation to support CMAP’s regional planning obligations under the Regional Planning Act and proposed amendments to the Open Meetings Act.  
ACTION REQUESTED: Information  
**Attachments:** [RPA Appropriations Memo](#)  
[OMA Legislative Activity Memo](#)
- 4.5 Local Government Network Update** [24-123](#)  
PURPOSE & ACTION: CMAP staff will provide an update on recent and upcoming initiatives of the Local Government Network.  
ACTION REQUESTED: Information
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**4.6 Regional Planning Approach Update**[24-122](#)

PURPOSE & ACTION: An update of the structure and benefits of a new approach to fulfilling CMAP's federal and state metropolitan planning responsibilities including the successor to ON TO 2050 and the 2026 regional transportation plan.

ACTION REQUESTED: Information

**Attachments:** [Regional Planning Approach Update Memo](#)

**5.0 Other Business****6.0 Public Comment**

This is an opportunity for comments from members of the public.

**7.0 Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for August 13, 2024 at 9:30 a.m.

**8.0 Adjournment**

**COUNCIL OF MAYORS  
MEETING MINUTES - DRAFT**

Tuesday, November 7, 2023

9:30 AM

**Cook County Conference Room  
433 West Van Buren Street, Suite 450  
Chicago, IL 60607**

Members of the public who attend in-person can pre-register for a visitor's pass at [info@cmap.illinois.gov](mailto:info@cmap.illinois.gov) until Monday, November 6 at 4:00 p.m. or should plan to arrive early to check-in with the building's information desk for access.

You can also join from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86202231278>

Phone: 312 626 6799

Meeting ID: 862 0223 1278

CMAAP provides the opportunity for public comment. Individuals are encouraged to submit comment by email to [info@cmap.illinois.gov](mailto:info@cmap.illinois.gov) at least 24 hours before the meeting. A record of all written public comments will be maintained and made publicly available.

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## 1.0 Call To Order

Mayor Schielke called the meeting to order at 9:30 am.

Representing agencies present:

**North Shore Council of Mayors:** Mayor George Van Dusen, Skokie

**Northwest Council of Mayors:** President Karen Darch, Barrington

**Northwest Council of Mayors:** Thomas Hayes, Arlington Heights

**Central Council of Mayors:** President Mark Kuchler, La Grange

**Southwest Council of Mayors:** President Dave Brady, Bedford Park

**South Council of Mayors:** President Mike Einhorn, Crete

**DuPage Council of Mayors:** Gary Grasso, Burr Ridge

**DuPage Council of Mayors: (Online)** Mayor Joe Machese, Darien

**Kane Council of Mayors:** Mayor Jeffery Schielke, Batavia

**Lake Council of Mayors:** Mayor Leon Rockingham, North Chicago

**Lake Council of Mayors:** President Glenn Ryback, Wadsworth

**Will Council of Mayors: (Online)** Mayor Teresa Kernc, Diamond

**Staff Present:** Laurent Ahiablame, Erin Aleman, Jesse Altman, Bill Barnes, Lindsay Bayley, Henrietta Brown, John Carpenter, Daniel Comeaux, Patrick Day, Teri Dixon, Kama Dobbs, Doug Ferguson, Alicia Gage, Ryan Gougis, Jon Haadsma, Kasia Hart, Evan Hay, Tricia Hyland, Jaemi Jackson, Aimee Lee, Jen Maddux, Jared Patton, Russell Pietrowski, Stephane Phifer, Elizabeth Scott, Sarah Stolpe, Jennie Vana, Blanca Vela-Schneider, Laura Wilkison

**Others Present:** Lenny Cannata, Eric Czarnota, Drew Duffin, Jackie Forbes, Neil James, Mike Klemens, Daniel Knickelbein, Brian Larson, Heidi Lichtenberger, Brittany Matyas, Joe Surdam, Kendra Johnson, Matt Pasquini, Megan Swanson, Fricano, Todd Schmidt, Chad Philips, Leslie Rauer, Terry Kernc, Charles Riddle, Michael Fricano, Claudia Morell

## 2.0 Approval of Minutes

### 2.1 Minutes from the Council of Mayors Executive Committee, August 15, 2023

[23-471](#)

**Attachments:** [Council of Mayors EC Draft Minutes 2023.08.15](#)

*A motion was made by Mayor Rockingham, seconded by Mayor Einhorn to approve the August 15, 2023 meeting minutes. The motion passed.*

### 3.0 Updates

#### 3.1 Executive Director's report

[22-438](#)

CMAQ Executive Director Erin Aleman began her report with an update regarding the PART report approved in October by the Board and MPO Policy Committee. The report outlines financial and governance options that address the transit system's fiscal cliff and improve service. The plan will be reviewed for consideration by the state legislature. CMAQ is planning a press event in celebration of this milestone to hand off the report to sponsors in December.

Executive Director Aleman also provided updates regarding: clean energy, the US Tech Hub for Quantum Tech, the housing readiness grant application open for public comment, Greater Chicagoland Economic Partnership, ADA Trainings, STP/CMAQ funding and project updates, legislative updates and Local contributions.

*The Executive Director's report was read and filed.*

#### 3.2 IDOT Bureau of Local Roads

[23-473](#)

*There were no IDOT updates for this meeting. Chad Riddle was available for questions.*

#### 3.3 STP Project Selection Committee

[23-476](#)

Kama Dobbs provided an update regarding the STP Project Selection Committee's last meeting, including the schedule for the Shared Fund call for projects cycle. Dobbs also noted that as of this meeting, all councils have their calls for local STP funding open and those calls close on varied schedules. Questions about the local calls should be directed to the appropriate planning liaison.

*STP Project Selection Committee updates were presented.*

#### 3.4 Legislative update

[22-406](#)

*There were no legislative updates for this meeting. John Carpenter was available for questions.*

#### 3.5 STAR: Transportation safety program

[23-472](#)

Lindsay Bayley provided the council with an update on current transportation safety actions and initiatives.

The STAR program is a 5-year effort to improve and implement traffic safety.

Bayley responded to questions and comments from the council and noted a request from President Darch for data pertaining to accidents involving texting and street racing.

*The STAR program was discussed.*

### **3.6 Accessibility program** [23-475](#)

Jaemi Jackson noted that within the CMAP region, 4.5 percent of people have a disability affecting mobility. CMAP's accessibility program provides training for municipal staff and officials regarding ADA and Title II, ADA coordinator, self-evaluations, and transition plans. CMAP has conducted seven trainings so far. Transition plans will soon begin in the communities of Berwyn, Chicago Heights, Hillside, La Grange Park, Lemont, Lincolnwood, Roselle.

CMAP staff are researching data on accessibility best practices. This could include policy briefs on accessibility and bike lanes, EV charging, etc. Staff research also includes the impact of improving accessibility for economic development.

*The accessibility program was discussed.*

### **3.7 Plan of Action for Regional Transit (PART)** [23-474](#)

Daniel Comeaux, provided an update on the Plan of Action for Regional Transit. He discussed next steps and answered questions from the council. The update discussed revenue proposals, principles for board appointments and governance reforms, as well as data and statistics used to construct this plan of action.

*The Plan of Action for Regional Transit was discussed.*

## **4.0 New Business**

### **4.1 FY 2025 Planning Liaison Scope of Services** [23-477](#)

Mayor Schielke requested a motion to approve the FY 2025 Planning Liaison Scope of Services.

*A motion was made by President Darch, seconded by President Ryback, that the FY 2025 Planning Liaison Scope of services be approved. The motion passed.*

### **4.2 STP Project Selection Committee Vacancy** [23-484](#)

Mayor Schielke requested the nomination and election of a representative to serve on the STP Project Selection Committee.

*A motion was made by President Darch, seconded by President Ryback, to appoint President Kuchler to serve on the STP Project Selection Committee. The motion passed.*

### **4.3 CMAQ/CRP/TAP-L Project Selection Committee Vacancy** [23-483](#)

Mayor Schielke requested the nomination and election of a representative to serve on the CMAQ/CRP/TAP-L Project Selection Committee.

*A motion was made by Mayor Grasso, seconded by President Darch, to appoint President Brady to serve on the CMAQ/CRP/TAP-L Project Selection Committee. The motion passed.*

**5.0 Other Business**

There was no other business before the Committee.

**6.0 Public Comment**

There were no comments from the public.

**7.0 Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on January 23, 2024.

**8.0 Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned by Mayor Schielke at 11:02 am.

Minutes prepared by Evan Hay





433 West Van Buren Street, Suite 450  
Chicago, IL 60607  
cmap.illinois.gov | 312-454-0400

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** CMAP Board

**From:** CMAP Intergovernmental Affairs staff

**Date:** March 1, 2024

**Subject:** Update on efforts to secure a state appropriation to support CMAP’s obligations set forth in the Regional Planning Act (70 ILCS 1707)

**Action Requested:** Information

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CMAP staff have continued legislative efforts to secure a state appropriation for CMAP to carry out the regional planning objectives identified in the Regional Planning Act (70 ILCS 1707). This priority was noted in CMAP’s 2023-2024 Advocacy Agenda.

In establishing CMAP as the comprehensive land use and transportation planning agency for the northeastern Illinois region, the Regional Planning Act directs CMAP to engage in planning efforts in various sectors, including housing, land use, water resources management, economic development, and others. Importantly, 70 ILCS 1707/62 notes that, “Additional funding shall be provided to CMAP to support those functions and programs authorized by this Act.”

Funding has never been appropriated to CMAP to carry out these objectives, and therefore, the agency has relied on local dues, state grants, philanthropic sources, federal earmarks, and other sources to carry out planning and programming that cannot be supported with UWP funding. While CMAP intends to continue seeking out these external resources, a dedicated appropriation from the state would help provide reliable, predictable funding to the agency to build out the programs that rely on these resources and remain responsive to regional needs.

Following conversations with legislators and other stakeholders, the bills ([HB5077](#)/[SB3388](#)) were refiled this session to request \$5M to the agency to: “to fulfill its obligations under the Regional Planning Act, to enhance capacity to support additional comprehensive local and regional planning, and to facilitate access to federal funding.” These bills are not expected to advance on their own, but instead the objective is to incorporate this appropriation in the FY25 budget. At the time of this writing, HB5077 is in the House Rules Committee and SB3388 has been assigned to the Senate Appropriations – Public Safety and Infrastructure Committee.



**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** CMAP Board

**From:** CMAP Intergovernmental Affairs staff

**Date:** March 1, 2024

**Subject:** Update on other stakeholders’ legislative efforts to modify Open Meetings Act requirements and discussion of potential CMAP action

**Action Requested:** Information

In 2020, the Illinois General Assembly and Governor’s Office took steps to permit public bodies subject to the Open Meeting Act (5 ILCS 120) to allow members to meet remotely. [P.A. 101-0640](#) authorized public bodies to conduct business without a physical presence of a quorum as long as certain conditions were met, including the issuance of a disaster declaration related to public health concerns. Members were permitted to participate remotely and public bodies were encouraged to provide video, audio, or telephone access to meetings to ensure members of the public could still monitor the meeting. The Governor issued several executive orders to sustain these provisions over the course of the pandemic.

These flexibilities came to an end when the public health emergency declaration ended in May 2023. In light of this expiration, there have been several bills filed in the Illinois General Assembly that seek to retain some element of these provisions within the OMA statute so that, in limited and defined circumstances, members of a public body may participate remotely so that a public body can continue to conduct business.

One bill that has been championed by the Illinois Municipal League is [SB103/HB1408](#), filed by Senator Cristina Castro (D – Elgin) and Representative Janet Yang Rohr (D – Naperville). This bill seeks to retain some of these provisions in the absence of an official public health emergency issuance.<sup>1</sup> Specifically, these bills would allow the chief elected or appointed official of the public body to determine that an in-person meeting would pose a risk to the health and safety of members of the public body or the public and conducting a meeting by audio or video

<sup>1</sup> For more information about the Illinois Municipal League’s position on these bills, please see their [fact sheet](#) and [2024 state legislative agenda](#).

conference is in the best interest of the public body or the public. The public body would need to provide a means by which the public may provide comment or address the public body, and meeting notices would need to provide the public with the information necessary to access the meeting.

As written, SB103/HB1408 permits public bodies subject to OMA to meet remotely in cases when the chief elected or appointed official of the public body deems it is unsafe or a danger to public health to meet in person. This creates a limited set of circumstances in which this provision could be used. Since this topic was not previously included in the CMAP Advocacy Agenda, CMAP staff would like the Board's input on whether staff should pursue legislative action that would permit this flexibility more permanently.

In addition, 5 ILCS 120/2.01 delineates certain public bodies that can allow for remote participation of members from another public building. These bodies include: a public body with statewide jurisdiction, or select public bodies that have jurisdiction over a specific geographic area of more than 4,500 square miles: an Illinois library system, a municipal transit district, or a local workforce investment area. It is important to note that this also requires that meeting be "held simultaneously at one of its offices and one or more other locations in a public building, which may include other of its offices, through an interactive video conference and the public body provides public notice and public access as required under this Act for all locations."

CMAP's jurisdiction, covering 4,071 square miles, is not much smaller than some of these above noted public bodies that already are authorized to allow members to participate remotely as long as they do so from a public building and post the appropriate notices. This supports participation from members who reside farther from the public body's central offices and can help sustain regional representation in large and diverse regions. It should be noted that this does not require Board members to participate remotely, and the Board may decide for certain meetings that all members shall participate in person.

Should the Board like to pursue such changes, below includes one proposal for how CMAP (and other MPOs that cover a large jurisdiction) could be provided with this flexibility based on the precedent set for other public bodies that cover a large geographic jurisdiction.

CMAP staff seek feedback from the Board regarding potential legislative action related to the Open Meetings Act.

### **Example amendment to OMA to permit remote meetings for larger MPOs**

(5 ILCS 120/2.01) (from Ch. 102, par. 42.01)

Sec. 2.01. All meetings required by this Act to be public shall be held at specified times and places which are convenient and open to the public. No meeting required by this Act to be public shall be held on a legal holiday unless the regular meeting day falls on that holiday.

Except as otherwise provided in this Act, a quorum of members of a public body must be physically present at the location of an open meeting. If, however, an open meeting of a public body (i) with statewide jurisdiction, (ii) that is an Illinois library system with jurisdiction over a specific geographic area of more than 4,500 square miles, (iii) that is a municipal transit district with jurisdiction over a specific geographic area of more than 4,500 square miles, (iv) that is a local workforce investment area with jurisdiction over a specific geographic area of more than 4,500 square miles, or (v) that is a federally designated metropolitan planning organization with jurisdiction over a specific geographic area of more than 4,000 square miles, is held simultaneously at one of its offices and one or more other locations in a public building, which may include other of its offices, through an interactive video conference and the public body provides public notice and public access as required under this Act for all locations, then members physically present in those locations all count towards determining a quorum. "Public building", as used in this Section, means any building or portion thereof owned or leased by any public body. The requirement that a quorum be physically present at the location of an open meeting shall not apply, however, to State advisory boards or bodies that do not have authority to make binding recommendations or determinations or to take any other substantive action.

Except as otherwise provided in this Act, a quorum of members of a public body that is not (i) a public body with statewide jurisdiction, (ii) an Illinois library system with jurisdiction over a specific geographic area of more than 4,500 square miles, (iii) a municipal transit district with jurisdiction over a specific geographic area of more than 4,500 square miles, or (iv) a local workforce innovation area with jurisdiction over a specific geographic area of more than 4,500 square miles must be physically present at the location of a closed meeting. Other members who are not physically present at a closed meeting of such a public body may participate in the meeting by means of a video or audio conference. For the purposes of this Section, "local workforce innovation area" means any local workforce innovation area or areas designated by the Governor pursuant to the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act or its reauthorizing legislation.

(Source: P.A. 100-477, eff. 9-8-17; 101-640, eff. 6-12-20.)

(5 ILCS 120/7)

Sec. 7. Attendance by a means other than physical presence.

(a) If a quorum of the members of the public body is physically present as required by Section 2.01, a majority of the public body may allow a member of that body to attend the meeting by other means if the member is prevented from physically attending because of: (i) personal illness or disability; (ii) employment purposes or the business of the public body; (iii) a family or other emergency; or (iv) unexpected childcare obligations. "Other means" is by video or audio conference.

(b) If a member wishes to attend a meeting by other means, the member must notify the recording secretary or clerk of the public body before the meeting unless advance notice is impractical.

(c) A majority of the public body may allow a member to attend a meeting by other means only in accordance with and to the extent allowed by rules adopted by the public body. The rules must conform to the requirements and restrictions of this Section, may further limit the extent

to which attendance by other means is allowed, and may provide for the giving of additional notice to the public or further facilitate public access to meetings.

(d) The limitations of this Section shall not apply to (i) closed meetings of (A) public bodies with statewide jurisdiction, (B) Illinois library systems with jurisdiction over a specific geographic area of more than 4,500 square miles, (C) municipal transit districts with jurisdiction over a specific geographic area of more than 4,500 square miles, (D) local workforce innovation areas with jurisdiction over a specific geographic area of more than 4,500 square miles, (E) federally designated metropolitan planning organizations with jurisdiction over a specific geographic area of more than 4,000 square miles or (ii) open or closed meetings of State advisory boards or bodies that do not have authority to make binding recommendations or determinations or to take any other substantive action. State advisory boards or bodies, public bodies with statewide jurisdiction, Illinois library systems with jurisdiction over a specific geographic area of more than 4,500 square miles, municipal transit districts with jurisdiction over a specific geographic area of more than 4,500 square miles, local workforce investment areas with jurisdiction over a specific geographic area of more than 4,500 square miles, and federally designated metropolitan planning organizations with jurisdiction over a specific geographic area of more than 4,000 square miles, however, may permit members to attend meetings by other means only in accordance with and to the extent allowed by specific procedural rules adopted by the body. For the purposes of this Section, "local workforce innovation area" means any local workforce innovation area or areas designated by the Governor pursuant to the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act or its reauthorizing legislation.

(e) Subject to the requirements of Section 2.06 but notwithstanding any other provision of law, an open or closed meeting subject to this Act may be conducted by audio or video conference, without the physical presence of a quorum of the members, so long as the following conditions are met:

(1) the Governor or the Director of the Illinois Department of Public Health has issued a disaster declaration related to public health concerns because of a disaster as defined in Section 4 of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act, and all or part of the jurisdiction of the public body is covered by the disaster area;

(2) the head of the public body as defined in subsection (e) of Section 2 of the Freedom of Information Act determines that an in-person meeting or a meeting conducted under this Act is not practical or prudent because of a disaster;

(3) all members of the body participating in the meeting, wherever their physical location, shall be verified and can hear one another and can hear all discussion and testimony;

(4) for open meetings, members of the public present at the regular meeting location of the body can hear all discussion and testimony and all votes of the members of the body, unless attendance at the regular meeting location is not feasible due to the disaster, including the issued disaster declaration, in which case the public body must make alternative arrangements and provide notice pursuant to this Section of such alternative arrangements in a manner to allow any interested member of the public access to contemporaneously hear all discussion, testimony, and roll call votes, such as by offering a telephone number or a web-based link;

(5) at least one member of the body, chief legal counsel, or chief administrative officer is physically present at the regular meeting location, unless unfeasible due to the disaster, including the issued disaster declaration; and

(6) all votes are conducted by roll call, so each member's vote on each issue can be identified and recorded.

(7) Except in the event of a bona fide emergency, 48 hours' notice shall be given of a meeting to be held pursuant to this Section. Notice shall be given to all members of the public body, shall be posted on the website of the public body, and shall also be provided to any news media who has requested notice of meetings pursuant to subsection (a) of Section 2.02 of this Act. If the public body declares a bona fide emergency:

(A) Notice shall be given pursuant to subsection (a) of Section 2.02 of this Act, and the presiding officer shall state the nature of the emergency at the beginning of the meeting.

(B) The public body must comply with the verbatim recording requirements set forth in Section 2.06 of this Act.

(8) Each member of the body participating in a meeting by audio or video conference for a meeting held pursuant to this Section is considered present at the meeting for purposes of determining a quorum and participating in all proceedings.

(9) In addition to the requirements for open meetings under Section 2.06, public bodies holding open meetings under this subsection (e) must also keep a verbatim record of all their meetings in the form of an audio or video recording. Verbatim records made under this paragraph (9) shall be made available to the public under, and are otherwise subject to, the provisions of Section 2.06.

(10) The public body shall bear all costs associated with compliance with this subsection (e).

(Source: P.A. 103-311, eff. 7-28-23.)



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## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Council of Mayors

**From:** CMAP Staff

**Date:** March 26, 2024

**Subject:** Regional planning approach update

**Purpose:** Background on the structure and benefits of a new approach to fulfilling CMAP's federal and state metropolitan planning responsibilities including the successor to ON TO 2050 and the 2026 regional transportation plan.

**Action Requested:** Information

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### Background

The Regional Planning Act ([70 ILCS 1707/](#)) requires CMAP to develop a regional comprehensive plan that integrates land use, transportation, and their relationships with economic development, the environment, air quality, energy consumption, and other issues impacting quality of life in northeastern Illinois. Per statute, the plan should guide the region's physical development and form the foundation for all planning in the region, with a special emphasis on the interactions between transportation and land use decisions.

As the designated metropolitan planning organization (MPO) for northeastern Illinois, CMAP is also mandated by federal regulations to develop and maintain a metropolitan transportation plan (MTP) that provide a comprehensive framework for transportation planning within the region. The MTP—also known as a regional transportation plan (RTP) or regional long-range transportation plan (LRTP)—outlines the long-term vision, goals, and strategies for the transportation system, addressing factors such as infrastructure needs, funding considerations, congestion management, safety improvements, and multimodal connectivity.

Since the agency was formed in 2005, it has fulfilled these state and federal responsibilities with the adoption of a single, large-scale regional comprehensive plan and its related update. Both GO TO 2040 (adopted in 2010) and ON TO 2050 (adopted in 2018) were the product of major, multi-year processes featuring extensive staff research, stakeholder engagement, and public outreach. Both award-winning plans helped the region to anticipate major challenges and opportunities, generate consensus on shared strategies, and evolve regional policy on difficult issues.

Staff have begun work on the next regional plan. This new plan will build on the successes of GO TO 2040 and ON TO 2050 while refining its approach in important ways. This memo describes key considerations of the new approach.

### **Learning from peer regions**

To begin the scoping process, staff explored how peer agencies approach their comprehensive planning activities and found they rarely created one, large-scale plan that satisfies all state and federal responsibilities. Instead, similar agencies pursue a structure that allows multiple plans, adopted over time, to be considered together as the region's unified plan. Oftentimes, a "big picture" plan sets the macro-level direction that guides topic-specific plans on issues of regional concern. This is often referred to as a "vision and subplans" approach, examples of which are included below.

The **Metropolitan Council** (MetCouncil) is the metropolitan planning organization for the Minneapolis and St. Paul region in Minnesota. For decades, the MetCouncil has successfully implemented a vision and subplans approach which begins by developing an overarching vision plan—the most recent is known as "[Thrive MSP 2040](#)." This plan provides a long-term vision for the region's growth and development. The Metropolitan Council develops several subplans focusing on specific topic areas, such as transportation, housing, regional parks, and water resources, to address their state and federal planning responsibilities.

Serving the Seattle-Tacoma region in the State of Washington, the **Puget Sound Regional Council** (PSRC) has adopted a similar approach by developing a regional vision, called "[VISION 2050](#)," which provides a comprehensive vision for the region's growth and development. Informed by the regional vision, PSRC develops subplans focusing on transportation, economic development, and housing to translate the overarching vision into topic area specific policies and strategies.

The **Atlanta Regional Commission** (ARC) is the regional planning and metropolitan planning organization for the 11-county Atlanta region. ARC has established an overarching regional plan framework, called "[One Great Region](#)," that focuses on a three-fold vision: providing world-class infrastructure; fostering healthy, livable communities; and building a competitive economy. Informed by the regional plan framework, ARC develops subplans including a regional economic strategy, a healthy communities plan, and a regional transportation plan.

### **A new approach to regional planning in northeastern Illinois**

CMAP is now moving forward with a vision/subplans approach as it will provide numerous opportunities to strengthen regional planning in northeastern Illinois. Under this approach, CMAP and regional partners can set a bold, new vision that builds upon the current plan's principles, policies, and goals, while refining comprehensive planning practices in important ways.

CMAP's regional vision plan will build on the significant progress and direction provided by previous work, while creating more flexibility than the agency's previous quadrennial planning cycle. Many of the ON TO 2050's strategies and recommendations remain relevant in relation to the region's complex, lasting issues. However, a single plan represents a snapshot in time



that cannot evolve and adapt to new and evolving priorities. For example, climate action, housing coordination, or industrial strategies all require more dedicated and responsive planning than is feasible under the previous model. By implementing a regional vision, CMAP will work with our partners to define overarching strategic priorities and commitments that will guide a range of more detailed sub-planning activities over the next 5-10 years. Combined, the regional vision and regional subplans will serve as the region's comprehensive plan.

### **Anticipated benefits of transitioning to this approach**

In addition to those already discussed, the vision/subplans approach has the potential to provide the following benefits:

#### Product improvements

- *Deeper analysis:* Topic-specific subplans enable the region to conduct in-depth analyses and assessments within each area, leading to a more thorough understanding of the challenges, opportunities, and potential impacts. This depth of analysis enhances the quality of decision-making and ensures that strategies are evidence-based and actionable.
- *More tailored solutions:* Different issue areas often require unique approaches and solutions. Having separate subplans allows the region to dig deeper and tailor strategies and policies to the specific needs and priorities of each topic area.
- *Enhanced public outreach and stakeholder engagement:* Developing a vision for the region provides an opportunity for high-level public outreach while developing subplans enables more extensive engagement with key stakeholders on curated topics. This approach would be geared to encourage meaningful and equitable participation from diverse stakeholders, fostering deeper collaboration and consensus-building.
- *Improved implementation and monitoring:* Having separate subplans facilitates implementation and monitoring efforts, as progress can be tracked and evaluated within each topic area. This allows CMAP and its partners to identify successes, challenges, and areas for improvement, and make data-informed adjustments as needed.

#### Process improvements

- *Flexibility and focus:* By having separate subplans, the region can maintain flexibility to address new and existing challenges or opportunities focused within specific topic areas, while staying aligned with an overarching regional vision. Additionally, topic area subplans would no longer be tied to the four-year update cycle of federal transportation planning requirements and could instead be updated on a cadence appropriate to each topic.
- *Breaking down planning silos:* A single comprehensive plan document requires an "all-hands-on-deck" approach to staffing, with subject matter experts focused on portions of the plan specific to their expertise. With subplans developed on different timelines, the agency will have an enhanced ability to deploy cross-functional and interdisciplinary teams.

- *Alignment with regional goals:* By developing subplans that are guided by the overarching vision for the region, the region can ensure alignment with our long-term goals and priorities. This coherence enhances the effectiveness and impact of the region’s planning efforts, leading to more sustainable and equitable outcomes.

### **Next Steps**

CMAP staff will discuss this new approach with the CMAP Transportation Committee, MPO Policy Committee, and Board. Additionally, CMAP staff will consult with partners including IDOT, and Region 5 FHWA and FTA staff.

CMAP will begin developing a macro-level plan that will serve as the foundation for regional subplans. This “north star” will articulate long-term goals and aspirations while also identifying potential challenges and opportunities that could impede or accelerate regional progress. It will also establish the universe of subplans and related material to be delivered over time to support implementation of these big picture planning goals.

To meet federal requirements CMAP has started preparations to develop the 2026 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). This plan will build on the mobility goals and strategies from ON TO 2050 and will guide multimodal transportation decision-making and funding allocation over a 20+ year horizon. By initiating the development of our RTP, we are taking proactive steps to ensure compliance with federal regulations and to address the transportation needs and priorities of our region in a comprehensive and strategic manner. The plan must be adopted by October 2026. Initial work includes procuring consultant support, establishing goals, conducting existing conditions research, updating administrative policies and procedures, and public outreach activities.

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