



# Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

## Agenda Item 2.01

433 West Van Buren Street  
Suite 450  
Chicago, IL 60607

312-454-0400  
cmap.illinois.gov

### MEMORANDUM

**To:** CMAP Board  
**From:** Erin Aleman, Executive Director  
**Date:** May 7, 2025  
**Subject:** Executive Director's report  
**Action Requested:** Information

---

---

Dear Board Members,

This report provides an update ahead of our May 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

### **Impact of recent executive orders on CMAP work and operations**

As shared previously, CMAP expected to make changes in response to the executive orders but lacked clarity and specific direction from USDOT and FHWA.

On April 24, USDOT Secretary Sean Duffy sent a [letter](#) to all recipients of federal transportation funding.

The purpose is to *“clarify and reaffirm pertinent legal requirements, to outline the Department’s expectations and to provide a reminder of responsibilities and consequences of noncompliance with Federal law and the terms of your financial assistance agreements.”*

As a recipient of federal funds, CMAP is taking steps to review and adjust our work and operations as necessary to maintain compliance.

### **Special MPO Policy Committee meeting scheduled**

A special MPO Policy Committee meeting will take place immediately following the Transportation Committee meeting on Friday, May 30, to review and approve the adoption of six county safety action plans by the grant deadline.

CMAP was awarded a \$4 million Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grant in 2023 to help create safety action plans for Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry, and Will counties. Completion of these plans opens the door to apply for federal funding to advance implementation.

Counties and communities interested in applying can connect with the project managers for your county safety action plan; contact information is available on each county page through the Safe Travel for All [website](#).

This program funds projects that advance transportation safety and save lives through building safer roads, improving pedestrian and bike safety, helping people access transit safely, and more.

### **Local Housing Profiles released**

CMAP recently shared new Local Housing Profiles to help policymakers, planners, researchers, and residents understand key information about their community. The profiles include a set of housing market data for every county, municipality, and Chicago community area in northeastern Illinois, created by CMAP in collaboration with the DePaul University Institute for Housing Studies.

Search local housing profiles and download profiles by county, municipality, or Chicago neighborhood [here](#).

### **Meeting with County Board Chairs**

On Friday, April 11, CMAP facilitated its regular meeting of the Council of County Board Chairs in DuPage County. The Chairs received an update on CMAP activities and discussed opportunities to support CMAP's ongoing efforts to develop the comprehensive climate action plan for the northeastern Illinois region. We were also joined by IEPA Director James Jennings, who provided an overview of the State's implementation of their Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) award. The primary focus of discussion was on opportunities for coordination between CMAP, local governments, and the State to achieve shared climate goals.

### **Modernizing Illinois' Sales Tax for a 21st Century Economy**

As part of its April Speaker Series, the Civic Federation held a "Modernization Illinois' Sales Tax for a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Economy" panel discussion featuring Erin along with Maurice Scholten of the Taxpayers' Federation of Illinois. The panel was moderated by Paula Worthington, Senior Lecturer at the Harris School of Public Policy. Erin and Maurice spoke to the key considerations outlined in the recently released joint paper on sales tax modernization. Topics included lessons from past efforts, strategies for implementing a modernized sales tax, and how this report relates to the ongoing regional transit funding conversations.

### **PART honored with WTS Innovative Transportation Solutions Award**

CMAP is proud to receive the [Innovative Transportation Solutions Award](#) from the WTS Greater Chicago Chapter for the Plan of Action for Regional Transit. The award recognizes the collaborative, equity-driven process behind PART — a bold, actionable strategy to address the region's looming \$770 million transit funding shortfall.

### **CMAP talks transit reform on ACEC-IL's Engineering Works**

Erin was a special guest recently on [Engineering Works](#), a podcast series produced by the American Council of Engineering Companies of Illinois (ACEC-IL). She discussed the looming transit fiscal cliff, as well as how the region reached this point while highlighting CMAP's role in developing sustainable funding solutions for northeastern Illinois' transit system.

At the request of the Lake County Board, I will be presenting on transit reform at their May 9 Committee of the Whole meeting.

### **Americas Competitiveness Exchange Illinois**

CMAP had the opportunity to host a delegation of approximately 80 international leaders as part of the 20th Americas Competitiveness Exchange. The event was organized by the Organization of American States, the U.S. Department of Commerce, and the U.S. Department of State, in collaboration with the State of Illinois, the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, and the University of Illinois System.

The delegation attended two panel discussions. The first featured several CMAP staff who spoke about the agency's role in regional transportation policy and planning, and how this work supports a strong regional economy. The second panel included representatives from World Business Chicago and McHenry, Kendall, and Will counties, who discussed the strengths and opportunities of the Greater Chicagoland Economic Partnership.

### **Strengthen Communities (HB3784) RPA funding initiative**

CMAP continues to work with Representative Will Davis on the Strengthen Communities (HB3784) funding initiative, which would appropriate \$2 million to the agency to support the planning functions and programs required in the Illinois Regional Planning Act.

CMAP continues to engage with members of the General Assembly on this important initiative and have already garnered bipartisan support and co-sponsorship from Representatives Dan Ugaste, Debbie Meyers-Martin, Elizabeth "Lisa" Hernandez, Robert "Bob" Rita, Eva-Dina Delgado, Anthony DeLuca, Martin Moylan, and Brad Stephens.

Additionally, the Illinois Municipal League, the Illinois State Association of Counties, Sierra Club Illinois, and the Metropolitan Planning Council are in support of the legislation.

In early April, Erin testified in support of HB3784 at a House Appropriations-Public Safety and Infrastructure Committee subject matter hearing. CMAP's goal is to incorporate the appropriation into the final FY2026 budget, and HB3784 presents a valuable opportunity to engage in the budget-making process.

### **Annual call for projects for technical assistance**

The annual call for projects for technical assistance closed in April. CMAP and the RTA received [83 applications from 69 jurisdictions](#) including local governments, community organizations, and government agencies. The three categories that received the highest number of applications are for ADA self-evaluation and transition plans, capital improvement plans, and corridor plans. CMAP and the RTA are thoroughly reviewing each application, meeting with select applicants, and researching needs. Awarded projects will be announced in June.

### **Future Leaders in Planning (FLIP)**

Again this year, CMAP is inviting high school students to apply for our Future Leaders in Planning (FLIP) program. This provides students across the region the opportunity to learn about urban planning and our region and share ideas about how to make northeastern Illinois a better place to live, learn, work, and play.

It runs over five days in July — July 15-17 (Tuesday through Thursday), and July 22-23 (Tuesday and Wednesday). It's in person at CMAP's office in the Old Post Office in downtown Chicago and includes field trips to sites throughout the region. The application deadline is 11:59 p.m. on Monday, June 2. [Apply here](#).

## **CMAP, Lake County partner to expand housing with support from Schreiber Philanthropy**

To help fuel economic growth, Lake County and CMAP — supported by Schreiber Philanthropy— are teaming up to expand affordable and accessible housing in Illinois' third most populous county. See the May 1 [news release](#).