



# Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

## Agenda Item 2.01

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### MEMORANDUM

**To:** CMAP Board  
**From:** Erin Aleman, Executive Director  
**Date:** March 11, 2026  
**Subject:** Executive Director's report  
**Action Requested:** Information

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Dear Board Members,

This report provides an update ahead of our March 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

## **March board meeting**

We look forward to seeing you for your next meeting on March 11<sup>th</sup>.

Noteworthy items on the agenda include:

1. An update on the development of the 2026 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), with a focus on the proposed investment priorities for review and feedback. Please note, the RTP agenda item has several attachments: 1. Draft RTP priority investments; 2. Draft RTP constraint list; 3. Draft RTP objectives and strategies.
2. We will provide an update on The Century Plan and ongoing engagement with stakeholders across the region. We will hear from an engaging panel on current economic development and employer needs, future development trends, and opportunities for regional action. The panel, including Christy George, Illinois Economic Development Corporation (invited), Doug Pryor, Will County Center for Economic Development, and Rachel Barker, Nonresident Fellow, Brookings Metro will discuss how current economic trends influence the mix of workforce, site readiness, infrastructure, and other needs required to be competitive in this market, and how local actions today can best position the region for a more prosperous future.

## **Technical assistance call for projects opens March 30**

CMAA is pleased to again partner with the Regional Transportation Authority on the annual call for projects for the Technical Assistance program. Through this joint effort, communities can apply using a single, streamlined online application that offers a range of planning assistance.

Applications will open Monday, March 30, and close Friday, April 17. Awards are expected to be announced in early summer. This year, the program will include a new category of assistance focused on node-oriented development.

For the first time, CMAA and the RTA will also host virtual office houses for communities interested in applying. Staff will be available to answer questions on Thursday, April 2, at 9:30 a.m. and Wednesday, April 8, at 1:30 p.m. Communities are encouraged to save the date. Additional details will be shared on CMAA's website -- as well as directly with community staff through the Local Government Network -- closer to the application opening on March 30.

These projects help build local capacity and advance implementation of ON TO 2050 priorities across the region.

## **A model for the region: Housing Lake moves from conversation to commitment**

Lake County is leading the way in its collaborative approach to housing challenges. Housing Lake, in partnership with CMAA, developed the [Comprehensive Housing Call to Action](#), which brought together 50+ municipalities, employers, and nonprofit partners to understand housing issues in Lake County and set clear pathways forward through coordinated action.

This roadmap will chart a path for Lake County — and the entire region — as it will inform The Century Plan, a long-term vision for a better, stronger future for all of northeastern Illinois.

Housing Lake recently released a [video](#) spotlighting the initiative. [Learn more](#) about Housing Lake and the Housing Summit.

### **Accessibility in action across the region**

More communities are making streets safer and more accessible for everyone.

In the past month — with technical assistance provided by the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) — **seven communities adopted ADA Public Right-of-Way Transition Plans**. This marks a major step forward for [accessibility across northeastern Illinois](#).

Why it matters:

- These plans help communities remove barriers by improving sidewalks, crossings, and other public right-of-way spaces
- Regional ADA compliance grew from **43 communities (18 percent) in 2024** to **51 communities (21 percent) by the end of 2025**
- That's a **132 percent increase in compliance** overall since this work began in 2021
- **241 of 284 communities** in the region are required to have a plan

Steady progress like this helps ensure people of all abilities can travel safely and independently.

Newly adopted plans: [Berwyn](#), [Chicago Heights](#), [Hillside](#), [La Grange Park](#), [Lemont](#), [Lincolnwood](#), [Roselle](#)

### **Blue-Ribbon Commission on Transportation Infrastructure and Funding: an overview of recommendations Accessibility in action across the region**

CMAP's Transportation Committee received an update from the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) at its February 27 meeting about the Blue-Ribbon Commission (BRC) on Transportation Infrastructure and Funding Report to the Illinois General Assembly.

The BRC was commissioned in 2022 for the purpose of helping enhance IDOT's critical role in maintaining a safe multi-modal transportation network and promoting the economic vitality of Illinois. The report includes 27 recommendations related to five overarching objectives that must be addressed by both IDOT and the General Assembly: (1) accelerate project delivery, (2) expand workforce capacity, (3) maximize the value of investments, (4) drive sustainable outcomes, and (5) secure adequate funding sources. [Watch the Transportation Committee presentation](#).

**ACTION REQUESTED:** Information