



## MEMORANDUM

**To:** CMAP MPO Policy Committee

**From:** CMAP Staff

**Date:** January 11, 2024

**Subject:** 2024 Public Participation Plan

**Action requested:** Approval

---

---

### What is the Public Participation Plan?

Federal law requires the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) to create a public participation plan that explains to the public the opportunities to be involved in the transportation planning process that metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) manage.

Every four years, CMAP develops a public participation plan (PPP) to not only comply with federal requirements, but also to guide the agency's proactive engagement of residents and constituencies in northeastern Illinois. The PPP also establishes core values for how CMAP integrates meaningful public engagement into its planning initiatives. CMAP's previous PPP was approved by CMAP's MPO Policy Committee in 2019.

Meaningful public participation is a key component of CMAP's planning processes, to produce regional plans, a transportation improvement program, and local plans that reflect the values and priorities of the people who live and work in the region. CMAP strives to inclusively identify, engage, and sustain relationships with residents in communities affected by regional planning and to provide all stakeholders reasonable opportunities to be involved in the planning process.

This PPP is intended to serve as a guide to both the public on how to participate in the agency's public committees and initiatives, but also as a resource to CMAP staff for planning public engagement processes.

### How was this Public Participation Plan developed?

Multiple levels of review have produced the Public Participation Plan for the committee's consideration. To draft the plan, CMAP staff looked to other MPOs' public participation plans for innovation and best practices. The draft PPP also responds to specific suggestions from the Federal Highway Administration to reflect expansion of the agency's virtual public engagement

tools since the previous PPP. Because this Public Participation Plan also serves as the PPP for the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA), the RTA reviewed an early draft in June 2023. The CMAP Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC) reviewed the PPP at its August 2023 meeting and the CAC members' comments were incorporated into the version for public comment. CMAP's Transportation Committee reviewed and approved the public comment version on September 22, 2023.

CMAP offered the draft PPP for a required 45-day public comment period from August 21 through October 6, 2023, and received no comment during that time. During the public comment period, CMAP shared the draft PPP on its [website](#), in its newsletters and through its social media channels to invite members of the public and regional stakeholders to provide feedback.

Review	Action	Date
Regional Transportation Authority	Reviewed draft	June 2023
Citizens Advisory Committee	Approved draft	August 8, 2023
Public comment period	Statutorily required 45-day public comment period for draft document	August 21 through October 6, 2023
Transportation Committee	Approved draft	September 22, 2023
MPO Policy Committee	Review, approval	January 11, 2024

Staff welcomes the committee's review and comments on the draft PPP and any questions about the process. The draft plan is linked here ([Public Participation Plan 2024\\_FINAL.pdf](#)) and included in the committee's packet.

**Action requested:** Staff requests the committee's review and approval of the 2024 Public Participation Plan.