



Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

Agenda Item 2.01

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MEMORANDUM

To: CMAP Board
From: Erin Aleman, Executive Director
Date: September 2025
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', is positioned above the printed name.

Erin Aleman

The Century Plan

At your next several board meetings, we will focus on The Century Plan — a vision for northeastern Illinois for 2060 and beyond.

In September, we will share success stories from our previous regional plans (ON TO 2040 and ON TO 2050).

We will also provide an update on the November 4 State of the Region event when we will publicly launch The Century Plan and celebrate CMAP's 20-year anniversary.

Please remember to RSVP to the email you received.

ILGA funding appropriation update

The legislation approved by the Illinois General Assembly appropriates \$2 million in funding to CMAP through the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS).

We've been working with IDHS to develop a grant agreement and reimbursement process.

Our commitment to the legislature is to use these funds to strengthen local communities throughout the region, fulfilling our promise under the Regional Planning Act.

We will do this through direct support to our local governments, including technical assistance and other work including climate, water, economic development — or non-transportation work that is not eligible for federal UWP funding.

Thank you for your support. Your advocacy played a vital role in securing this important investment in the region's future.

Community Data Snapshots

CMAP released an updated set of [Community Data Snapshots](#) to help local leaders and the public track progress and make informed decisions in their communities.

These data-rich snapshots — one for each of the region's 284 municipalities, 77 Chicago community areas, and 7 counties — summarize demographics, housing, employment, transportation habits, and other key details.

This year's snapshots include new data on uninsured populations and county-level development, as well as significant updates like housing and transportation costs comparisons and annual vehicle miles traveled.

Coalition for Housing Solutions

In July, Lake County and CMAP launched [Housing Lake County](#) — a groundbreaking coalition that brings together business leaders, elected officials, developers, and community advocates to tackle challenges head-on.

The group hosted its first stakeholder meeting attended by 110 people, including elected officials, nonprofits, employers, and developers. The goal was to build a shared understanding of Lake County's current housing landscape and start building buy-in from stakeholders. Another workshop is planned for September.

The coalition builds on earlier commitments made by Lake County and CMAP, with support from Schreiber Philanthropy, to prioritize housing as an economic development strategy.

Future Leaders in Planning (FLIP)

CMAP concluded its 16th Future Leaders in Planning (FLIP) summer program in July. Thirty-four students from four counties engaged with CMAP team members and community partners, learning firsthand about the planning profession and how it shapes communities.

This summer, students explored a wide range of planning topics, including communications and engagement, accessibility of the public right-of-way, the 2026 Regional Transportation Plan, housing, and GIS. The students experienced the region as a living laboratory, with site visits to the Loop, Horner Park, O'Hare Airport, Chinatown, Bronzeville, and East Garfield Park — each offering a unique perspective on planning in action.

Federal activities (congressional briefings and reauthorization)

Throughout the summer, I met with several members of the region's congressional delegation. I shared updates on CMAP's progress in advancing regional priorities, and heard directly from members about their priorities and how CMAP can continue being a valuable partner. The agency remains committed to working with our congressional delegation to communicate regional goals and priorities while ensuring alignment with federal opportunities.

CMAP staff collaborated with regional transportation implementers, advocacy groups, and stakeholders to develop One Regional Voice 2025 (ORV 2025) which reflects the shared principles of northeastern Illinois in the federal surface transportation reauthorization process. ORV 2025 outlines key policy priorities for the next reauthorization bill and supports a transportation system that works better for everyone, embodies the safe systems approach, fosters a robust regional economy, and enhances quality of life for residents across the region. The letter is organized around the following topic areas:

- Robust, durable revenues
- Safety
- Public transportation and passenger rail
- Bridges
- Performance-based programming
- Multimodal freight
- Technological innovation
- Resilient and efficient transportation systems

In addition, staff worked with peer MPOs from major metropolitan areas to develop a set of shared reauthorization principles that reflect the priorities of the nation’s largest metropolitan regions. That letter raises similar themes as ORV 2025.

More information about the agency’s congressional briefings and reauthorization efforts can be found in the legislative update memo for the September 2025 board meeting.

Q4 FY2025 Communications and Engagement metrics and media

The 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.

CMAP Communications & Engagement Social/newsletters metrics Q4 FY2025: April-June

	14 newsletters Topics including accessibility, regional economy, safety, transportation, and more
	26,654 Total unique newsletter opens
	181,244 social media impressions Across Instagram, LinkedIn, Facebook, and Threads
	76 mentions Media coverage covering topics like housing, safe travel, the transit fiscal cliff, climate, and more (see below for links)

CMAP Communications & Engagement

Engagement metrics

Q4 FY2025: April-June



73 events in 7 counties

Highlights included coordination meetings with municipal partners across the region for planning projects such as ADA transition plans and the Regional Transportation Plan. The team also participated in public engagement sessions, community events, and student workshops, and held discussions with regional councils of governments and councils of mayors.



10,013

Engagement HQ site visits

1,143

New contributions, with 8.2% of visitors contributing to projects



Chicago Metropolitan
Agency for Planning

CMAP Q4FY25 media mentions

[Long-time North Chicago mayor declares victory once again; 'I will continue to do everything I can to make North Chicago better'](#), Lake County News-Sun

[As Chicago transit cliff nears, call made for services tax](#), The Bond Buyer

[When the levy breaks: Taxpert Maurice Scholten says updating IL sales tax could help fund transit, but not soon enough to avert fiscal cliff](#), StreetsBlog Chicago

[Demographer Predicts Slight D64 Enrollment Growth Over Next 10 Years](#), Journal & Topics

[State Rep. Deuter Launches New Speaker Series](#), Illinois Delivered

[If they're on a fiscal cliff, why are CTA and Metra operating like it's 2019?](#), Wirepoints

[Groundbreaking Ceremony Held for New 80-Unit Senior Apartments and Community Center Transformative Project in Franklin Park](#), MultifamilyBiz

[Elgin News Digest: Second Chance reentry resource fair at Elgin library; Elgin-area state reps holding transit listening session](#), The Courier-News

[The Most Ambitious Transit Project in America Right Now is in a City Trump Hates](#), Slate

[Park Forest road construction begins with \\$3 million state grant](#), Will County Gazette

[Meet the 2025 Culture and Community Network](#), Smart Growth America

[Machine Learning in Mode Choice Prediction as Part of MPOs' Regional Travel Demand Models: Is It Time for Change?](#), MDPI

[Chicago Can't Afford to Not Spend on Transit](#), Loyola Phoenix

[Exemplary people and projects shortlisted for Sustainability Delivery Awards 2025](#), Environment Analyst Global

[Community listening – upcoming activities](#), Jeff Merrell Blog

[Lawmakers to hold transit listening session](#), Evanston Now

[These were the 10 priciest ZIP codes for Chicago homebuyers in 2024](#), Chicago Tribune

[Transit planning includes talk of taxing services](#), Bill Dwyer

[After 26 years in office, outgoing Skokie Mayor George Van Dusen recalls highlights, including work with Obama](#), Richard Requena

[CNT's Jacky Grimshaw discusses Lifetime Achievement Award from Climate Action Museum, and her work to address the transit fiscal cliff](#), Cameron Bolton

[Trying to avoid the 'fiscal cliff'](#), Jeff Hirsh

[Evanston legislators 'hopeful' on averting transit fiscal cliff — even if it comes down to the wire](#), Alex Harrison

[State legislators, CMAP present preliminary plan to address Chicago transit fiscal cliff](#), Sophie Baker

[Barrington breaks ground on long-awaited Route 14 underpass](#), Steve Zalusky

[Thinking about: Town halls and missed opportunities to engage the engaged](#), Jeff Merrell

[F.H. Paschen Breaks Ground on New Leyden Senior Apartments and Community Center in West Suburban Cook County of Franklin Park, Multifamily Biz](#)

[Despite pause on new biking funds, area projects keep rolling](#), Daily Herald

[Chicago transit leaders say \\$1.5 billion could avoid "drastic service cuts"](#), Axios Chicago

[3 Chicago Buildings Make Landmarks Illinois' Most Endangered Historic Places List](#), Block Club Chicago

[Housing costs 'burden' Oak Park and River Forest households](#), Wednesday Journal

[Lake County announces housing expansion partnership](#), Lake County Gazette

[Public outcry against proposed cuts to Chicago-area transit system](#), World Socialist Web Site

[Joe Ferguson: How Chicago transit is governed requires reform before the state rescues it with cash](#), Chicago Tribune

[Access Woodstock; Public meetings May 12 on ADA compliance of city sidewalks, crosswalks](#), Woodstock Independent

[Opinion: Will the Illinois GOP show up for the 2026 state elections?](#), Chicago Tribune

[Safety Reforms Could Be Coming for Chicago-Area Transit, but Funding Details Still Up in the Air](#), Capitol News Illinois

[Craig Dellimore interview w/ Alex Bahls on recent census data showing Chicago population growth](#), WBBM

[Craig Dellimore interview w/ Mayor Nancy Rotering on transit reform and funding](#), WBBM

[Worth to switch water supplier to Oak Lawn](#), The Reporter

[Lawmakers must act to protect communities from transit crisis](#), Daily Herald

[Going green: "Parklets" by the Prairie Path drew residents to learn more about the DuPage County Safety Action Plan](#), Streets Blog Chicago

[Biking popularity surges with infrastructure improvements, events, clubs](#), Daily Herald

[Lake County releases latest homelessness assessment results](#), Lake County Gazette

[Libertyville seeks public input for ADA transition plan](#), Lake County Gazette

[Illinois Delivery Tax: Saving Chicago Transit & Funding Downstate](#), World Today News

[Illinois Residents Grapple With Urban Flooding](#), The Fulcrum

[Libertyville surveying residents about accessibility](#), Daily Herald

[New Illinois laws aim to make streets safer for bikers, pedestrians](#), Daily Herald

[Regional planning and the role of groundwater management agreements](#), Freshwater Society

[Chicago area transit providers plan for service cuts amid funding uncertainty](#), Chronicle Illinois

[Southwest Collective and Equiticity representatives discuss the transit budget crisis](#), Streetsblog Chicago

[Business owners react to Grand Boulevard roadwork](#), Riverside-Brookfield Landmark

[Metra receives funding for two station projects, three locomotives](#), Trains.com

[Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning awards Metra \\$104 million in CMAQ grants](#), Mass Transit

[Metra secures \\$104 million in grants for station renovations and electric locomotives](#), Chicago Business Journal

[Chicago Becomes the National Leader in Logistics That Makes the City Strong](#), Chicago Suburban Family

[Chicago's Transit Systems Face a Fiscal Cliff](#), Governing

[Council splits on housing language in Envision plan review](#), Evanston Round Table

[Rolling Meadows Gets Technical Assistance With Bicycle, Pedestrian Plan](#), Journal & Topics

[Designing Policy Solutions with Community Lessons Learned From the CivicSpace South Chicago Climate + Housing Convening](#), States News Service

[Surface Transportation News: Infrastructure Stimulus Bill, Highway Investment and COVID-19](#), Reason Org

[Why rail, public transit could make central Ohio land more valuable](#), NBC 4

[The Traffic Guy 2.0 hears...](#), Evanston Round Table

[Chicago transit's \\$771M fiscal cliff could shrink because of extra sales tax](#), Crain's Chicago Business

[Kane County launches Smart Sprinkler pilot to cut water use, protect aquifers](#), Daily Herald

[Will LinkUS change the way Columbus commutes?](#), NBC 4

[Council faces 100+ comp plan edits](#), Evanston Now

[Special City Council meeting will see Envision plan amended, but not adopted](#), Evanston Round Table

[Eye On Illinois: Do your research now before ideas become substantial proposals,](#)
Shaw Local

[Lake County announces six-month housing coalition initiative,](#) Lake County Gazette

[State Sen. Ram Villivalam: Here's how we can stop Chicagoland transit from falling off the fiscal cliff,](#) Streetsblog Chicago

[Derailed: Looming funding cuts to Philadelphia's transit system offer a lesson for Chicago,](#) Chicago Tribune

[Kane County needs participants for Smart Sprinkler pilot program,](#) Daily Herald