



## MEMORANDUM

**To:** CMAP Board

**From:** Piotr Wietrzak,  
Director of Finance, Finance and Administration

**Date:** November 9, 2022

**Re:** Contract approval for Civic Consulting Alliance partnership in the amount of \$70,000 for the Plan of Action for Regional Transit

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The COVID-19 pandemic has caused enormous challenges for the transportation system in northeastern Illinois, with especially significant consequences for the public transportation system. Most notably, as the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) currently estimates, the three service boards that provide transit services in the region (the Chicago Transit Authority, Metra, and Pace) will face a combined operating budget shortfall of more than \$700 million in 2026 after federal aid is fully exhausted in 2025.

In response to these challenges and as required by Public Act 102-1028, the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) is preparing to develop and submit a report of legislative recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly of the State of Illinois on several topics related to the transit system of northeastern Illinois. The Act requires the report to address changes to the recovery ratio, sales tax formula and distributions, governance structures, regional fare systems, and any other changes to State statute, Authority, or Service Board enabling legislation, policy, rules, or funding that will ensure the long-term financial viability of a comprehensive and coordinated regional public transportation system that moves people safely, securely, cleanly, and efficiently, and that supports and fosters efficient land use.

To meet these requirements, CMAP has initiated a project called the *Plan of Action for Regional Transit (PART)*. The Chicago Community Trust (Trust) recently awarded CMAP a grant for \$70,000 to support the first phase of this work, which will establish the process by which the required Steering Committee is structured and executed. The intent of the Trust was to support a partnership between CMAP and Civic Consulting Alliance's (CCA's) civic sector transportation portfolio, enabling CCA to continue to leverage its staff expertise and pro bono partnerships in service of the region.

It is recommended that the Board approve a 1-year agreement with Civic Consulting Alliance in the amount of \$70,000 for the Plan of Action for Regional Transit (PART) project. Support for this contract will be provided by a Chicago Community Trust grant awarded for that purpose.

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