



## MEMORANDUM

**To:** CMAP Council of Mayors Executive Committee

**From:** CMAP Intergovernmental Affairs Staff

**Date:** December 29, 2025

**Subject:** Legislative update

**Action Requested:** Information

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### **FEDERAL**

#### **Surface transportation reauthorization**

Progress toward the next surface transportation reauthorization bill continues. Congressional authorizing committees have begun circulating draft language internally in advance of anticipated public release and markups during the first quarter of 2026. The current surface transportation bill, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), is set to expire on September 30, 2026, and Congress is working to pass reauthorization ahead of this deadline.

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 transportation stakeholders in the federal surface transportation reauthorization.

CMAP staff has shared ORV 2025 with the region's congressional delegation and other federal stakeholders to help inform federal policy and investment decisions in the reauthorization bill. As the reauthorization process evolves over the next year, CMAP will continue engaging with the region's congressional delegation and stakeholders to elevate shared goals and priorities.

### **STATE**

#### **Transit funding and reform**

On December 16, 2025, Governor Pritzker signed SB2111 ([P.A. 104-0457](#)) into law. This comprehensive transit funding and reform package creates the Northern Illinois Transit Authority (NITA) and provides nearly \$1.5 billion to support the system's operating and capital needs.

The law directs existing state sales tax on motor fuel to transit operations, authorizes the RTA Board to approve a 0.25% RTA sales tax increase, and provides new capital revenue from interest on the Road Fund balance. The law also increases tolls by 45 cents for passenger vehicles and 30% for commercial vehicles and directs those revenues to Tollway's capital program.

The law also includes several measures to promote transit and trail supportive development in the region. NITA is authorized to acquire, construct, maintain, and sell property within 1/2 mile of a transit

station, 1/8 mile of a bus stop, and 1/4 mile of a public trail for transit and trail supportive development. However, the board is required to follow local land use regulations.

The law establishes a 20-member NITA Board with five members appointed each by the Governor, the Mayor of Chicago, the Cook County Board President, and collar county leadership. NITA is tasked with new responsibilities that improve user safety and experience and foster a more integrated transit system.

The law is set to take effect on June 1, 2026, and all new board appointments must be approved by appointing authorities with 120 days of this effective date. CMAP will continue engagement with the General Assembly, regional partners, and stakeholders to support implementation and the transition to a new regional agency.

## STAR bonds expansion

On December 12, 2025, Governor Pritzker signed SB1911 ([P.A. 104-0453](#)) into law, a tax omnibus measure which responds to select provisions in the July 2025 federal budget reconciliation bill, broadens the state's film production tax credit program, and expands the use of [Sales Tax and Revenue \(STAR\) bonds](#) to support development projects.

STAR bonds allow local governments to finance major tourism, entertainment, and retail projects by pledging a portion of the future state and local sales tax revenues those projects are expected to generate. STAR bond projects are intended to bolster significant economic activity and must meet certain investment and job creation thresholds.

P.A. 104-0453 requires local units of government to submit a notice of intent to create a STAR bond district to DCEO and IDOR by June 1, 2026, but allows up to 23 years from the district's approval date to authorize STAR bond projects.

The law also establishes New Opportunities for Vacation and Adventure (NOVA) districts, which operate under guidelines similar to STAR bonds but require higher investment and job creation thresholds to support large-scale projects.

## General legislative activity

The General Assembly is scheduled to convene for its regular session starting the second week of January 2026.

CMAP staff tracks legislation before the Illinois General Assembly that impacts the region and is relevant to CMAP's work. For more information on tracked legislation of interest, please contact Ryan Gougis, IGA Specialist at [rgougis@cmap.illinois.gov](mailto:rgougis@cmap.illinois.gov).