

CMAP Board and MPO Policy Committee Resolution
Submitting Plan of Action for Regional Transit pursuant to Illinois Public Act 102-1028

Whereas, transit and the success of our region are directly linked by enabling mobility, fostering a strong economy, improving health (through air quality and climate change mitigation), and advancing equity through access to reliable and affordable transportation; and

Whereas, the Northeastern Illinois region is vital to the state's economy, accounting for 75% of the state's gross domestic product; and

Whereas, drastic shifts in ridership from the pandemic resulted in significant revenue shortfalls for transit agencies and exacerbated existing issues to the region's transit system; and

Whereas, transit agencies face a \$730 million budget gap annually in 2026 when federal operating assistance is fully expended creating a financial crisis that will force severe service cuts; and

Whereas, the General Assembly approved Public Act 102-1028 requiring the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) to develop and submit a report of recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly regarding changes to the recovery ratio, sales tax formula and distributions, governance structures, regional fare systems, and any other changes to State statute, Regional Transportation 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 supports and fosters efficient land use; and

Whereas, the Act directs that the report also consider recommendations on how the Authority and Service Boards can better address racial equity, climate change, and economic development; and

Whereas, per the Act, CMAP convened a steering committee composed of a diverse group of representatives from across the region from business, community, environmental, labor, and civic organizations, as well as academia, who advised on the development of the Plan of Action for Regional Transit (PART) and its recommendations; and

Whereas, the CMAP Board and MPO Policy Committee approved ON TO 2050, the regional comprehensive plan for northeastern Illinois, in October 2018 and reaffirmed approval of the ON TO 2050 plan update in October 2022; and

Whereas, ON TO 2050 recommends specific transit-related strategies to achieve the region's goals, including: making transit more competitive through fast, frequent, reliable, and affordable service that connects people to important destinations; diversifying and increasing

transit funding sources; providing equitable transit access; and making further progress in fare and service coordination; and

Whereas, the Illinois Regional Planning Act states that the purpose of CMAP is to effectively address the development and transportation challenges in the region; and

Whereas, the CMAP Board is responsible for developing and adopting a funding and implementation strategy for an integrated land use and transportation planning process and for identifying regional priorities and providing coordinated advocacy of regional priorities; and

Whereas, the CMAP MPO Policy Committee is the federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Chicago region and shall approve all plans, reports, and programs required of an MPO, including the federally mandated Regional Transportation Plan, Transportation Improvement Program, and Unified Work Program; and

Whereas, it is the intent of the Regional Planning Act that the transportation planning and investment decision-making process be fully integrated into the regional planning process; and

Whereas, the **Plan of Action for Regional Transit** (PART) is grounded in sound public policy; builds on previous regional plans; and includes meaningful public engagement, data, models, analysis, findings, alternatives, and recommendations; and

Whereas, PART is guided by and aligns with ON TO 2050 and accordant with the Board and MPO's mandated responsibilities; and

Whereas, PART fulfills the requirements of Public Act 102-1028 tasking CMAP with developing legislative recommendations on the region's transit system; and

Now therefore be it resolved that the CMAP Board and MPO Policy Committee adopt this **Plan of Action for Regional Transit** for the sole purpose of submitting it to the Governor and General Assembly for their consideration of the recommendations contained therein by January 1, 2024, as required by the Act.