



## MEMORANDUM

**To:** CMAP Board and MPO Policy Committee

**From:** CMAP Staff

**Date:** May 29, 2024

**Subject:** Analysis of transportation plans and priorities for 2026 RTP

**Action Requested:** Information

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One of the first steps in the multi-year effort to develop the 2026 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) is to review transportation plans adopted in the region to better understand the current transportation goals in northeastern Illinois.

Currently, ON TO 2050's Mobility Chapter, Financial Plan, Regionally Significant Projects (RSPs), and relevant appendices serve as the transportation plan for this region. We are federally required to update the RTP every four years. The next RTP will maintain the 2050 planning horizon year and look to the ON TO 2050 plan as a preliminary foundation.

In the RTP development, CMAP must demonstrate consistency with the visions of national, state, and regional governments, in addition to complying with federal and state requirements.

CMAP reviewed and summarized 29 plans from the county, regional, state, and federal levels that will help frame conversations with stakeholders about the overall vision of the 2026 RTP as well as its potential goals, objectives, and strategies.

CMAP aims to uplift the current priorities of transportation partners and incorporate federal, state, regional, and local priorities in this early stage of the RTP development.

The inventory of the 29 partners' plans revealed common themes across shared priorities that have been organized into nine distinct goals listed below. While not every plan included each of these goals, this list is intended to generally represent the overarching goals that guide long-range transportation plans in northeastern Illinois.

1. Increase mobility and accessibility
2. Enhance multimodal connections
3. Preserve the existing transportation system
4. Improve safety and security
5. Mitigate climate change, enhance resilience, and protect the environment

6. Advance equity and environmental justice
7. Support economic growth and competitiveness
8. Optimize efficient freight system management and mitigate risks
9. Strategically govern, fund, and operate the system

A more detailed [memo](#) on the plan inventory for the 2026 Regional Transportation Plan was shared with the Transportation Committee at its May meeting.

### **Next steps**

CMAP will coordinate with board members, committee members, and transportation stakeholders to explore the following questions:

- Which goals remain relevant to the transportation needs and priorities of today?
- Are there transportation goals or approaches to certain topics that need to evolve to better reflect the current landscape?
- Are there any gaps or emerging trends that require the region to form consensus around new transportation solutions?

In the near future, CMAP will begin conducting outreach and engagement to inform these questions and the broader RTP vision. Starting in the summer of 2024, staff will request individual meetings with relevant federal and state agencies, county governments, City of Chicago, transit agencies, and other relevant stakeholders to discuss their transportation priorities.

Furthermore, CMAP will engage the Community Alliance for Regional Equity (CARE) and the Future Leaders in Planning (FLIP) to share information about the RTP process and provide opportunities for input. Additional opportunities to receive feedback include disseminating a public survey and opening an online portal where governments, advocacy organizations, community groups, or other entities can submit materials they would like CMAP to consider, such as research, plans, ideas, policy positions, or other relevant materials.