

**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** MPO Policy Committee

**From:** The Century Plan project team

**Date:** March 12, 2026

**Subject:** The Century Plan update

**Action Requested:** Information

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Through The Century Plan, CMAP is bringing together voices across government, civic spheres, business, and local communities to grapple with questions on how northeastern Illinois has changed in recent years and what we need to plan for our shared future. This engagement includes hosting a series of large public forums on pressing issues for the region's future development as well as discussions with local mayors and managers on what to prioritize in the plan. To begin, CMAP has published the [State of the Region report](#), which surfaces major trends that impact residents' quality of life, including topics like:

- Transportation
- Jobs and the economy
- Population and households
- Housing
- Cost of living
- Natural resources

Looking ahead, the report will support upcoming conversations in The Century Plan process about how the region can collaborate to thrive and achieve greater prosperity. Together with findings from other research and engagement, these insights will shape the overall direction for The Century Plan and grand challenges that the plan will seek to address.

During the meeting, the project team will provide an overview of key trends and takeaways in the *State of the Region* report.

**ACTION REQUESTED:** Information