Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

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MEMORANDUM

To: Transportation Committee

From: CMAP Staff

Date: November 14, 2025

Subject: Regional Transportation Plan update

Action Requested: Information

General update

The Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) continues to advance through research, data analysis, and stakeholder engagement. In partnership with a consultant team, staff continue to make progress on policy briefs, which include topics such as asset management, intercity bus and rail, and emerging technologies.

At the end of the 2025 calendar year, the RTP questionnaire will close. As of November 2025, the questionnaire has received nearly 1,600 responses from residents across all 7 counties of northeastern Illinois. Once the questionnaire closes, staff will review and analyze the responses for consideration in the draft RTP, which will be available for public comment during the summer of 2026.

Financial plan update

CMAP is working to finalize the RTP's fiscal constraint by wrapping up revenue and expenditure forecasts. Current activities include coordinating with the regional capital projects team and implementers on project prioritization efforts and making methodological adjustments that account for recent policy changes. This includes incorporation of the transit revenue package passed by the Illinois General Assembly during veto session, and alignment with the Blue Ribbon Commission on Transportation Infrastructure Funding and Policy's unanimously approved draft recommendations.

Staff are also working with our consultant partners to complete the Financial plan's risk assessment. The team is analyzing risks associated with key financial assumptions, such as the availability of future revenue streams, cost escalation rates, and project delivery schedules. CMAP will ultimately test how sensitive the financial plan is to these assumptions, and work with resource group members and other stakeholders to identify mitigation strategies that protect the region's ability to implement its transportation priorities under various future conditions. By revealing the conditions under which the fiscal constraint may be at risk, this exercise will increase transparency about the strengths and limitations of a long-range forecast and support better decision-making in the face of uncertainty.

Regional capital projects

The draft Regional Capital Projects (RCP) Benefits Report is available on the RCP's engagement website. Staff continue to work with project sponsors and the RCP resource group to review the project information presented in the report, identify and summarize key findings from the evaluation metrics, and identify the most regionally beneficial RCP candidates to be highlighted in the RTP.

In addition, CMAP staff met with project sponsors in late October to discuss local and individual agency priorities for fiscal constraint within the plan. This information, along with the evaluation metrics, will be used to determine the best path forward for achieving fiscal constraint within the RTP.