



Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

Agenda Item 2.01

433 West Van Buren Street
Suite 450
Chicago, IL 60607

312-454-0400
cmap.illinois.gov

MEMORANDUM

To: CMAP Board

From: **Erin Aleman**, Executive Director

Date: September 4, 2024

Subject: Executive Director's report

Action Requested: Information

Dear Board Members,

This report provides an update ahead of our September meeting with the goal of greater transparency to CMAP's work and to supplement the agenda.

Should you have questions regarding this report, please feel free to reach out to me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Erin Aleman'.

Erin Aleman

Welcome to our new board members

[Joanna Ruiz](#) is our newest board member representing the City of Chicago. Joanna is a Vice President Wallin/Gomez Architects, Ltd. Additionally, [Mayor Jada D. Curry](#) from the Village of Lynwood is joining the CMAP Board representing Cook County. We are excited to welcome Joanna and Mayor Curry at their first meeting in September and look forward to the new partnership.

Board engagement

This summer, we have spent time meeting with board members and local partners to hear more about your priorities as a board member and to preview some major regional efforts CMAP will have underway in the coming year. I traveled throughout the region to meet with board members, COG leadership, and municipal and county staff to discuss these priorities and gather input. We still have a few more conversations scheduled through the fall. We are grateful for the feedback received and look forward to continuing the dialogue at our meetings and at our board retreat on November 13th.

Safe Travel for All update

[Safe Travel for All](#) is a regionwide initiative to eliminate traffic fatalities and serious injuries in northeastern Illinois. Funded by \$4 million in federal grant funds plus state and local funds for a total of \$5 million investment, the first-of-its-kind initiative will develop a regional traffic safety framework and countywide safety action plans for six counties in the region. Completing these safety action plans will open opportunities for federal funding for traffic safety improvements. The county safety action plans are beginning public engagement phases. [DuPage](#), [Lake](#), and [Will](#) counties' online engagement platforms are live (with interactive safety hot-spot maps, surveys, and in-person events). County steering committees are meeting regularly, and teams are connecting with communities at in-person events (e.g. great engagement at the Will County Fair!). Cook, Kane, and McHenry counties' engagement platforms are coming soon.

Climate Committee update

The [Climate Committee](#) met in July and welcomed five new members: Robin Grooms of Lake County, Scott Kuykendall of McHenry County Planning and Development, Emily Reusswig of Openlands, Stefan Schaffer of the Natural Resources Defense Council, and Ryan Wilson of the Metropolitan Planning Council. The committee approved updates to its bylaws to allow for more flexibility in member representation and virtual workshops in addition to meetings. It also approved a new schedule, and will meet next for a virtual workshop on Thursday, October 24.

The [Climate Action Plan](#) team provided an update on their work, including research on sector-specific decarbonization and modeling getting underway. A steering committee has convened along with groups focused on transportation, industry, water and wastewater, and buildings.

Following an overview of the [Regional Transportation Plan](#), the committee discussed emerging issues the plan could consider.

Surface Transportation Program (STP) Call for projects

The [Surface Transportation Program \(STP\)](#) is a federal-aid highway funding program that provides flexible funding states and localities can use for a wide range of transportation projects. Funds are available for road and bridge construction, repair, and rehabilitation, as well as safety improvements, traffic management systems, and transportation planning projects.

Within CMAP's metropolitan planning organization boundaries in northeastern Illinois, each local [Council of Mayors](#) and the City of Chicago administer STP Local funds. Communities that wish to participate in STP Local funding do so through the local call for projects facilitated by their [designated subregional council](#). Projects are evaluated, scored, and awarded funding according to methodology and deadlines set by each council. Funds are programmed on a biannual basis, with some projects awaiting funds on a contingency list.

The local Councils of Mayors and Chicago Department of Transportation most recently conducted calls for federal fiscal year 2025 – 2029 STP Local projects from October 2023 through March 2024. Nearly \$894 million was allocated amongst 358 projects from 96 project sponsors across the 7 counties in the region. Some highlights include:

- 97 percent of the programmed funding is for construction and construction engineering.
- Most of the projects (80 percent) and funding (62 percent) are primarily focused on roadway maintenance and modernization. Nearly all these projects include bicycle, pedestrian, and ADA infrastructure improvements.
- More than \$12 million dollars is programmed for bicycle and pedestrian improvements.

CMAP prepared snapshot summaries for projects and investments by council:

- [Central Council](#)
- [DuPage Council](#)
- [Kane/Kendall Council of Mayors STP](#)
- [Lake Council](#)
- [McHenry Council](#)
- [North Central Council](#)
- [North Shore Council](#)
- [Northwest Council](#)
- [South Council](#)
- [Southwest Council](#)
- [Will Council](#)
- [City of Chicago](#)

Data snapshots

Our updated [Community Data Snapshots](#) provide data-driven profiles for every county, municipality, and Chicago Community Area in northeastern Illinois. This year, we've introduced the [online data dashboard](#), providing a new way to explore the information. So far, the data dashboard has nearly 2,800 views.

There are three new tables on population with disabilities. The snapshots feature updated water source, demand, and price data. There is fresh information on land-use data. We have updated employment characteristics information, including industry and location.

We typically hear lots of positive feedback that communities find the snapshots to be useful and helpful. This year, several communities have shared their snapshot information on social media.

Household travel survey

CMAP's [Household Travel Survey](#) will survey households throughout northeastern Illinois to find how and why people navigate our region. Known as My Daily Travel, the survey launches in mid-September. Select residents will receive a letter in the mail from CMAP.

Survey recipients will be asked to share their daily or weekly travel activities for their household, via an app downloaded on their phone, an online form, or over the phone. Invitations are sent to specific households to ensure we get a geographic and demographic representation from across the seven counties in our region. The final data will be available in late 2025 on the [CMAP Data Hub](#). The information gathered will help inform and guide future transportation investments and support improvements. The survey was last conducted in 2019.

Future Leaders in Planning (FLIP) marks 16th year

Every summer for the last 16 years, we have held our FLIP program, which stands for "Future Leaders in Planning." The week-long program gives students across our region exposure to planning and the work we do at CMAP. This year's cohort included 23 students from five counties. The students went on some great field trips, including: The Chicago Architecture Center; The Pullman National Historical Park; Chinatown; the Lincoln Park Zoo and the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District.

Council of Mayors update

The Council of Mayors Executive Committee – which includes representatives from each of the eleven subregional councils of mayors – meets next on September 24. Over the summer, CMAP staff spent time with most of the mayors to discuss how the committee's meetings could be more valuable to the mayors and to the agency. The committee's agendas for this year will reflect the mayors' preferences, including a thorough background about IDOT, the transportation funding processes, and trends in regional weather and electric vehicles.

Executive director engagements

USDOT Public Engagement Workshop

In August, the US Department of Transportation invited CMAP to present a panel discussion on our Community Alliance for Regional Equity (CARE) program at one of USDOT's regional workshops on public engagement, as an example of innovation in community engagement. I facilitated a conversation at the workshop with two of our CARE members from the Northwest Center in Belmont Cragin and Faith in Place.

FHWA Safe System Workshop

Last week, CMAP hosted the FHWA Office of Planning and Office of Safety's workshop for its project called the MPO Safe System Approach Needs Assessment to understand how MPOs can integrate a safe system approach into their core planning functions and staff responsibilities. Safety experts and FHWA staff from around the country met here last Thursday.

Forums discussing regional mobility and PART

I participated in two panel discussions this summer to discuss the future of regional mobility and the PART report. One was hosted by the Lincoln Forum, ACEC-IL and the Union League Club of Chicago Transportation Subcommittee and panelists included: State Senator Don DeWitte, State Representative Eva-Dina Delgado, and Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) Chair Kirk Dillard. The other took place at the Civic Federation July board meeting and included State Senator Ram Villivalam, Representative Delgado, and RTA Chair Dillard.

Staff continues to respond to state legislator and stakeholder requests for clarification of the PART report options. We have a few more tentative requested events for the fall to highlight the service and funding components. We will remain diligent to further the dialogue on the funding needs of the transit system in the coming year with key stakeholders.