



**CMAP BOARD**

**MEETING MINUTES - FINAL**

Monday, January 13, 2025

9:30 AM

**Cook County Conference Room  
433 West Van Buren Street, Suite 450  
Chicago, IL 60607**

Members of the public who attend in-person can pre-register for a visitor's pass at [info@cmap.illinois.gov](mailto:info@cmap.illinois.gov) until Friday, January 10, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. or should plan to arrive early to check-in with the building's information desk for access.

You can also join from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82410801918?pwd=LBh63IWIDzQ4linAzh4g2hlxfXbpCK.1>

Conference Call number: 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 824 1080 1918      Passcode: 617525

CMAP provides the opportunity for public comment. Individuals are encouraged to submit comment by email to [info@cmap.illinois.gov](mailto:info@cmap.illinois.gov) at least 24 hours before the meeting. A record of all written public comments will be maintained and made publicly available.

The total cumulative time for public comment is limited to 15 minutes, unless determined otherwise by the Chair. Public comment is limited to three minutes per person unless the Chair designates a longer or shorter time period. Public comments will be invited in this order: Comments from in person attendees submitted ahead of time; comments from in-person attendees not previously submitted; comments from virtual attendees submitted ahead of time; and comments from virtual attendees not previously submitted.

To review CMAP's public participation policy, please visit <https://www.cmap.illinois.gov/committees>.

If you require a reasonable accommodation or language interpretation services to attend or join the meeting, please contact CMAP at least five days before the meeting by email ([info@cmap.illinois.gov](mailto:info@cmap.illinois.gov)) or phone (312-454-0400).

## 1.0 Call to Order and Introductions

Chair Bennett called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m.

**Present:** Gerald Bennett, Matthew Brolley, Jada Curry, Gary Grasso, Nina Idemudia, John Noak, Richard Reinbold, John Roberson, Nancy Rotering, Joanna Ruiz, Carolyn Schofield and Anne Sheahan

**Absent:** Frank Beal, Paul Hoefert and Matthew Walsh

**Non-Voting:** Kouros Mohammadian and Leanne Redden

Noting a physical quorum of the Board, Chair Bennett reported requests were received from Members John Noak, Joanna Ruiz, and Carolyn Schofield to attend the meeting virtually in compliance with the Open Meetings Act. A vote is needed to approve their virtual attendance.

*A motion was made by Matthew Brolley, seconded by Nancy Rotering, to allow remote participation by John Noak, Joanna Ruiz, and Carolyn Schofield. The motion carried by the following vote:*

**Aye:** Gerald Bennett, Matthew Brolley, Jada Curry, Gary Grasso, Nina Idemudia, Richard Reinbold, Nancy Rotering and Anne Sheahan

**Absent:** Frank Beal, Paul Hoefert and Matthew Walsh

**Non-Voting:** Kouros Mohammadian and Leanne Redden

**Not Present:** John Noak, John Roberson, Joanna Ruiz and Carolyn Schofield

Chair Bennett remarked that Members Noak, Ruiz, and Schofield are present and able to participate in today's meeting.

**Staff present:** Erin Aleman, Bill Barnes, Alex Beata, Vas Boykovskyy, John Carpenter, Teri Dixon, Phoebe Downey, Ryan Gougis, Jane Grover, Craig Heither, Natalie Kuriata, Aimee Lee, Tony Manno, Suzanne McCray, Stephane Phifer, Jennie Vana, Blanca Vela-Schneider, Laura Wilkison, Claire Williams

**Others present:** Garland Armstrong, Drew Duffin, Mark Fowler, Neil James, Gretchen Klock, Greg Kandathil, David Kaptain, Mike Klemens, Mark Kownick, Brian Larson, Jill Leary, Heidi Lichtenberger, Matt Pasquini, Jada Porter, Laslie Rauer, Kevin O'Malley, Erin Roberts, Michael Sewall, Vicky Smith, Joe Surdam, Pete Wallers

## 2.0 Agenda Changes and Announcements

Chair Bennett remarked that today's meeting will be limited to an hour and will immediately be followed by the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus (MMC) meeting.

### 2.01 Executive director's report

[25-003](#)

**Attachments:** [Memo - Executive director report](#)

Erin Aleman, Executive Director, reported on the recent retirement of Illinois Department of Transportation Secretary Omer Osman, wishing him well in his future endeavors. Governor Pritzker has named Gia Biagi to serve as IDOT's new Secretary and CMAP looks forward to working with Secretary Biagi.

Director Aleman reported she joined a delegation of transportation leaders and advocates for a trip

to visit Munich and Berlin, Germany. The delegation met with German transit officials to learn more about their transit system and experience the operations of the system. She remarked on New York City's congestion pricing program designed to reduce traffic in heavily congested areas. Staff continues to work on funding options for transit and is working with tax policy experts to modernize the sales tax.

(Member John Roberson arrived at 9:39 a.m.)

Director Aleman also remarked on staff member Victoria Barrett's attendance at the first World Street Congress in December, hosted by Osaka, Japan.

Director Aleman reported on the special workshop of the Board held in November that focused on building knowledge about the agency, and the roles that CMAP and the Board's have in the region. Member Matthew Brolley, who attended the workshop, provided highlights of the workshop. In addition to learning more about CMAP's core functions and funding structure and gaining clarity around the board members' roles as regional leaders, the board members got to hear from the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO)'s executive director about the value and evolving role of metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs). The workshop included to panels that talked about the value of partnership and regionalism and how CMAP's programs have impacted communities.

Finally, Director Aleman remarked on the local contribution letters were sent to the region's counties, municipalities, and transportation partners. The monies from the local contributions fund the 20% local match required for federal metropolitan planning funding monies.

*The executive director's report was received and filed.*

### **CONSENT AGENDA (Agenda items 3.01, 4.01, 5.01 and 5.02)**

#### **3.0 Approval of Minutes**

##### **Approval of the Group Vote**

*A motion was made by Member Gary Grasso, seconded by Member Nancy Rotering, to approve agenda items 3.01, 4.01, 5.01 and 5.02 under the Consent Agenda. The motion carried by the following vote:*

**Aye:** Gerald Bennett, Matthew Brolley, Jada Curry, Gary Grasso, Nina Idemudia, John Noak, Richard Reinbold, John Roberson, Nancy Rotering, Joanna Ruiz, Carolyn Schofield and Anne Sheahan

**Absent:** Frank Beal, Paul Hoefert and Matthew Walsh

**Non-Voting:** Kouros Mohammadian and Leanne Redden

#### **3.01 Joint meeting minutes from October 9, 2024**

[24-452](#)

**Attachments:** [CMAP Board & MPO Policy Committee 10.09.24 Minutes](#)

*Agenda items 3.01, 4.01, 5.01 and 5.02 were approved under the Consent Agenda.*

#### 4.0 Procurements and Contract Approvals

- 4.01 Authorization to enter into contract C25-0077 with M. Harris & Co. as a result of RFP 334 for strategic planning and engagement integration for a term up to 36-months with two, one-year optional renewals, in an amount not to exceed \$2,420,000 [24-443](#)

**Attachments:** [Memo - RFP 334 M. Harris & Co. justification](#)  
[Attachment 1 - Evaluation Criteria - RFP 334](#)  
[Attachment 2 - Evaluation Scores - RFP 334 rev \(1\)](#)

*Agenda items 3.01, 4.01, 5.01 and 5.02 were approved under the Consent Agenda.*

#### 5.0 Items for Approval

- 5.01 Consideration of the 2025 CMAP Board meeting schedule [24-457](#)

**Attachments:** [Memo - 2025 CMAP Board Meeting Schedule](#)

*Agenda items 3.01, 4.01, 5.01 and 5.02 were approved under the Consent Agenda.*

- 5.02 Consideration of CMAP committees for calendar year 2025 [24-458](#)

**Attachments:** [Memo - CMAP Committees proposed for 2025](#)

*Agenda items 3.01, 4.01, 5.01 and 5.02 were approved under the Consent Agenda.*

#### REGULAR AGENDA

#### 6.0 Items for Approval

- 6.01 Consideration of the CMAP Board by-laws update pursuant to changes passed in Public Act 103-0986 [24-456](#)

**Attachments:** [Memo - 2025 by-laws update](#)  
[Attachment 1 - Public Act 103-0986](#)  
[Attachment 2 - Board By-laws \(Redline\)](#)

Erin Aleman, Executive Director, reported Regional Planning Act (Public Act 103-0986) was passed into law effective January 1, 2025. The proposed modifications to the by-laws mirror the language in the Act.

*A motion was made by Member Matthew Brolley, seconded by Member Anne Sheahan, to approve amendments to the by-law modifications. The motion carried by the following vote:*

**Aye:** Gerald Bennett, Matthew Brolley, Jada Curry, Gary Grasso, Nina Idemudia, John Noak, Richard Reinbold, John Roberson, Nancy Rotering, Joanna Ruiz, Carolyn Schofield and Anne Sheahan

**Absent:** Frank Beal, Paul Hoefert and Matthew Walsh

**Non-Voting:** Kouros Mohammadian and Leanne Redden

- 6.02 2025-2026 Federal and State Advocacy Agenda [24-503](#)

**Attachments:** [Memo - 2025-2026 Advocacy Agenda](#)  
[Attachment 1 CMAP Advocacy Agenda 2025](#)  
[Attachment 2 9-13-24 CMAP LSLR](#)

John Carpenter, Intergovernmental Affairs Director, presented the proposed 2025-2026 Federal and State Advocacy Agenda. The advocacy agenda is updated every two years and is developed through the lens of CMAP's ONTO 2050 Plan and Strategic Direction, aligning with CMAP's core focus areas: transportation, climate and regional economic competitiveness. Two accomplishments that came from the 2023-2024 Advocacy Agenda were: 1) the integration of the Carbon Reduction Project into the Congestion Mitigation Air Quality programming and 2) establishment of the Office of National Multimodal Freight within the USDOT, and the issuance of a Request for Information (RFI) regarding the goals and criteria designating the national multimodal network.

Ryan Gougis, Intergovernmental Affairs Specialist, reported that the 2025-2026 Advocacy Agenda's top priorities include securing an annual appropriation to support a wide range of technical assistance offerings; supporting a sustainable funding source for transportation; supporting innovations that streamline project delivery and facilitate regional transportation improvements; and supporting increased investments in safe and complete streets and policy changes that enable a safe system approach. The advocacy agenda also includes support for stronger policies that enhance resilience, reduce emissions and congestion, increase resources for integrated water resource management, promote inclusive growth that reduces economic disparities, and enhance opportunities for comprehensive planning and economic development.

Intergovernmental Affairs Director Carpenter reviewed next steps.

*A motion was made by Member Nina Idemudia, seconded by Member Anne Sheahan, to approve the 2025-2026 Federal and State Advocacy Agenda. The motion carried by the following vote:*

**Aye:** Gerald Bennett, Matthew Brolley, Jada Curry, Gary Grasso, Nina Idemudia, John Noak, Richard Reinbold, John Roberson, Nancy Rotering, Joanna Ruiz, Carolyn Schofield and Anne Sheahan

**Absent:** Frank Beal, Paul Hoefert and Matthew Walsh

**Non-Voting:** Kouros Mohammadian and Leanne Redden

## 7.0 Information Items

### 7.01 2024 CMAP Annual Report

[24-507](#)

**Attachments:** [Memo - Annual Report 2024](#)  
[Annual Report 2024 - Final](#)

Erin Aleman, Executive Director, presented the 2024 Annual report. CMAP will be shifting from its single, large-scale comprehensive plan to a multi-plan framework that provides a more dynamic and responsive approach to the region's challenges and opportunities. These plans will replace the ONTO 2050 Plan and will serve as the region's comprehensive plan.

Director Aleman reviewed highlights in the plan, demonstrating CMAP's work in serving with passion and excellence, influencing change, investing strategically, and fostering collaboration. The Annual Report included CMAP's focus on transportation, climate, regional economy, and people and culture.

Discussion ensued.

*The 2024 CMAP Annual Report was received and filed.*

## 7.02 Introduction of the Proposed FY 2026 Budget and Work Plan

[25-004](#)

**Attachments:** [Memo - FY26 Budget Introduction](#)  
[FY26 draft CMAP Work Plan](#)

Erin Aleman, Executive Director, introduced the proposed FY 2026 Budget and Work Plan. The seven county board chairs and the City of Chicago continue to rely on CMAP to advance their shared priorities on a regional level and have submitted a joint letter outlining their call to action and asking CMAP for continued guidance and coordination of the Greater Chicagoland Economic Partnership.

CMAP's work is guided by the region's long-range comprehensive plan. The five-year Strategic Direction prioritizes CMAP's work into three areas: transportation, climate, and regional economic competitiveness. It also includes agency-wide services that support CMAP's work. CMAP uses its levers of planning regionally and locally, influencing change, and investing strategically to advance its region's vision and goals.

Director Aleman highlighted projects on the FY 2026 work plan including technical assistance projects, ADA accessibility projects, the I-290 Blue Line Corridor Development Office project, transportation safety projects, and emissions forecasting and analysis program work.

Member Gary Grasso noted that the chair of DuPage County, Deborah Conroy, is very engaged in transit issues and supports resolving last mile services.

*An introduction of the proposed FY 2026 Budget and Work Plan was presented.*

## 7.03 Procurements approved by the Executive Committee

[24-505](#)

**Attachments:** [Memo - Executive Committee procurement approvals](#)

Erin Aleman, Executive Director, reported on a provision that allows the Executive Committee to assist the Board in carrying out its general powers and duties when it is unable to meet quorum and is not scheduled to meet for at least 14 days after. The CMAP Board meeting was cancelled due to a lack of a quorum on Wednesday, November 13. The Executive Committee held a special meeting on November 25 and approved four contracts. The bylaws require that the Executive Committee report its actions at the Board's next meeting. Accordingly, contract C25-0073 with x3Design US LL as a result of RFP 327, contract C25-0075 with CCS Learning Academy as a result of RFP 302, contract C25-0075 with muse Community + Design as a result of RFP 318, and contract C25-0076 with KerrSmith Design as a result of RFP 333 were approved by the Executive Committee. No action is required by the CMAP Board.

*A list of procurements approved by the Executive Committee at its November 25, 2024 Special Meeting was presented to the Board in accordance with the Board's by-laws.*

## 8.0 Other Business

Chair Bennett reported the Executive Committee and Metropolitan Mayors Caucus meetings will immediately follow the Board meeting.

## 9.0 Public Comment

Garland Armstrong, former Illinois resident, commented on the quality of the 2024 Annual Report, encouraging the agency to translate the report into multiple languages for non-English speaking

communities. He also expressed support for the use of clean energy in transit infrastructure.

#### **10.0 Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 12.

#### **11.0 Adjournment**

*A motion was made by Member Gary Grasso, seconded by Member Anne Sheahan, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried by the following vote:*

**Aye:** Gerald Bennett, Matthew Brolley, Jada Curry, Gary Grasso, Nina Idemudia, John Noak, Richard Reinbold, John Roberson, Nancy Rotering, Joanna Ruiz, Carolyn Schofield and Anne Sheahan

**Absent:** Frank Beal, Paul Hoefert and Matthew Walsh

**Non-Voting:** Kouros Mohammadian and Leanne Redden

The meeting was adjourned at 10:24 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Blanca Vela-Schneider