



## **TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

### **MEETING MINUTES - DRAFT**

Friday, February 28, 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 February 27, 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/83578014580?pwd=ZWSDXo42TZrk3BbPaWKipC9mgLWXXK9.1>

CMAPI 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 CMAPI'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 CMAPI 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 Kevin Carrier called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. and welcomed new member Amy Rynell of Active Transportation Alliance (ATA). ATA replaces the seat vacated by Center for Neighborhood Technology.

**Present:** Academic Research Representative 2, ATA Representative, CDOT Representative, CMAP Representative, CoM Representative, Cook Co Representative, CTA Representative, DuPage Co Representative, IDOT-D1 Representative, IDOT - OP&P Representative, IEPA Representative, Kane Co Representative, Kendall Co Representative, Lake Co Representative, McHenry Co Representative, Metra Representative, MPC Representative, NIRPC Representative, Pace Representative, RTA Representative, SEWRPC Representative, Tollway Representative, and Will Co Representative

**Absent:** Academic Research Representative 1, and IDOT - OIPI Representative

**Non-Voting:** FHWA Representative, and FTA Representative

Kevin Carrier served as Lake Co Representative, P.S. Sriraj served as Academic Research Representative 2, Amy Rynell served as ATA Representative, Jeff Sriver served as CDOT Representative, Aimee Lee served as CMAP Representative, Leon Rockingham served as CoM Representative, Jennifer Henry served as CTA Representative, Tara Orbon served as Cook Co Representative, Steve Travia served as DuPage Co Representative, Katie Herdus served as IDOT D1 Representative, Megan Swanson served as IDOT OP&P Representative, Jack Cruikshank served as IEPA Representative, Heidi Lichtenberger served as Kane Co Representative, George Khandathil served as Kendall Co Representative, Scott Hennings served as McHenry Co Representative, Lynnette Ciavarella served as Metra Representative, Thomas Bamonte served as MPC Representative, Tom Vander Woude served as NIRPC Representative, Erik Llewellyn served as Pace Representative, Kyle Whitehead served as RTA Representative, Chris Heibert served as SEWRPC Representative, Karyn Robles served as Tollway Representative, Christina Kupkowski served as Will Co Representative, Todd Schmidt served as FHWA Representative and Mark Kane served as FTA Representative

**Staff present:** Erin Aleman, Laurent Ahiablame, Jesse Altman, Bill Barnes, Victoria Barrett, Lindsay Bayley, Alex Beata, Nora Beck, Lily Brack, Brett Brown, Michael Brown, John Carpenter, Karly Cazzato, Kaitlin Cernak, Patrick Day,, Teri Dixon, Kama Dobbs, Phoebe Downey, Doug Ferguson, Elizabeth Ginsberg, Ryan Gougis, Jane Grover, John Haadsma, Noah Harris, Kasia Hart, Craig Heither, Matt Marth, Martin Menninger, Jen Miller, Richard Norwood, Russell Pietrowiak, Julie Reschke, George Rivera, Michael Sobczak, Sarah Stolpe, Ryan Thompto, Jennie Vana, Blanca Vela-Schneider, Laura Wilkison

**Others present:** Garland Armstrong, Michael Booth, Christina Burns, Eric Czarnota, Drew Duffin, Sara Fio-Rito, Claire Garcia, Brandon Geber, Henry Guerriero, Michael Horsting, John Paul Jones, Mike Klemens, Gretchen Klock, David Kralik, Brian Larson, Adrian Levin, Brittany Matyas, Laura McFadden, Madeline McGuire, Tim McMahon, Heather Mullins, Kurt Nika, Matt Pasquini, Leslie Rauer, Paul Reise, Steve Schilke, Mike Sullivan, Joe Surdam, Daniel Thomas, Michael Vanderhoof, Karen Watt Harrison

## 2.0 Agenda Changes and Announcements

## 3.0 Approval of Minutes

### 3.01 Minutes from December 20, 2024

[25-042](#)**Attachments:** [TC meeting minutes 12.20.24](#)

*A motion was made by CoM Representative Leon Rockingham, seconded by CMAP Representative Aimee Lee, to approve the December 20, 2025 meeting minutes. The motion carried by the following vote:*

**Aye:** ATA Representative, CDOT Representative, CMAP Representative, CoM Representative, Cook Co Representative, CTA Representative, DuPage Co Representative, IDOT-D1 Representative, IDOT - OP&P Representative, IEPA Representative, Kane Co Representative, Kendall Co Representative, Lake Co Representative, McHenry Co Representative, Metra Representative, MPC Representative, NIRPC Representative, Pace Representative, RTA Representative, SEWRPC Representative, Tollway Representative, and Will Co Representative

**Absent:** Academic Research Representative 1, and IDOT - OIPI Representative

**Non-Voting:** FHWA Representative, and FTA Representative

**Not Present:** Academic Research Representative 2

### 4.0 CMAP Updates

Erin Aleman, Executive Director, welcomed Active Transportation Alliance (ATA) as a new member of the Transportation Committee. ATA replaces the Center for Neighborhood Technology (CNT) but it was noted that CNT is still represented through its executive director who sits on the CMAP Board. Amy Rynell introduced herself to the committee and reported that ATA is a non-profit advocacy organization that works to improve conditions for transit.

Director Aleman reported on the number of lawsuits related to recent executive orders and the policies continue to rapidly evolve. CMAP has been working with associations to stay apprised of current events. Some clarity has been given regarding discretionary funding, and this has allowed CMAP to continue its Safe Streets for All program although the scope has changed to comply with new the new administration's priorities. The Climate Pollution Reduction grant in which CMAP is a key partner has paused its engagement work but is moving forward with the modeling work related to the transportation sector.

The local Federal Highway Authority (FHWA) staff has been reduced from 34 people to 19 people and there are only three staff members who will support federal investments and participate in the state and regional process and will cause delays in responsiveness. Staff will do its best to streamline work going to the FHWA.

Director Aleman reported on two guidance documents sent to the US Department of Transportation (USDOT). The first is the *Implementation of Executive Orders Addressing Energy, Climate Change, Diversity, and Gender* that details a process for reviewing all activities under USDOT purview. The second document is titled *Ensuring Reliance Upon Sound Economic Analysis in Department of Transportation Policies, Programs and Activities* that updates and resets the principles and standards for the USDOT.

CMAP has heard that the USDOT will not be moving forward with a guidance that would have required all of its division offices forward Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)

amendments to the USDOT's Office of General Counsel for review which could have caused significant disruptions in project implementation schedules and jeopardize fiscal year deadlines, risking lapse of funds.

Director Aleman reported on the recently approved FY2026 annual budget and work plan, a recent ADA coordinators meeting, staff's attendance at recent events/conferences, the My Daily Travel survey, the Northeastern Illinois Priority Investment booklet.

Discussion ensued regarding the changes to the Safe Streets for All project.

## 5.0 Items for Approval

### 5.01 FFY 2023-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) amendments and administrative modifications

[25-048](#)

**Attachments:** [TC\(Memo\)TIP Amend25-05](#)  
[Formal TIP Amendment 25-05](#)  
[Administrative TIP Amendment 25-05.1](#)  
[Administrative TIP Amendment 25-05.2](#)

Russell Pietrowiak, Senior Programming Analyst, presented the FFY 2023-2028 TIP formal amendment and administrative modifications. There are 122 changes in formal amendment 25-05 resulting in adding \$1.4 billion in total project costs for all prior, current, and future years. Notable changes include \$47 million added by IDOT for resurfacing and bridge work on the Bishop Ford, \$71 million for track and station work added by CTA at their Fullerton and Diversey stations, \$60 million added by CTA for bus turnaround and ADA improvements at its 79th and Halsted St, and \$31.5 added by Pace to continue expanding its southwest garage facility. There are 232 administrative modifications that reduce the total cost of the TIP by \$216.1 million for all prior, current, and future years. The total net change resulted in \$1.18 billion being added to the TIP for all prior, current, and future years. The TIP, as presented, remains fiscally constrained and has been available for public review and comment since February 21, 2025.

A motion was made by IEPA Representative Jack Cruikshank, seconded by Kane Co Representative Heidi Lichtenberger, that the FFY 2023-2028 TIP amendment 25-05 be approved as submitted.

MPC Representative Thomas Bamonte commented that the Kendall County Metra Extension Project is already receiving funding from Rebuild Illinois, will be constructed in a sparsely populated area that is estimated to serve only 2,000 riders daily, would cost millions to build and operate, and would eventually compete against other transit agencies for resources. He added the project is not included in CMAP's Regionally Significant Projects. He questioned whether this project meets eligibility criteria for funding. MPC does not believe this is the time for this project to be advanced, and that the committee should focus on the needs of the existing system. Given these reasons, MPC is not in support of this project and would like it removed from the amendment.

Senior Analyst Pietrowiak clarified that the Transportation Committee's approval is specific to whether CMAP followed its processes. To modify the TIP amendment, would require CMAP to do additional analysis to ensure that the TIP remains fiscally constrained. Mark Kane, FTA, reported that the majority of the funding is derived from an earmark passed by Congress. Screening of eligibility is

completed before it goes to legislation and this project is eligible in its eyes. The recipient of the grant is IDOT and when FTA does grant awards, the project needs to stay within the confined definition of what was passed in the earmark. Discussion continued regarding legislative processes and limitations in the role of the committee and the impact of public comments.

A motion was made by MPC Representative Bamonte, to amend the motion to advance item 25-05.01 for approval with the exclusion of TIP ID 09-25-0019, Kendall County Metra Extension Project, without prejudice to Kendall County, Metra, IDOT, RTA, or any other public agency later making the case to CMAP for possible advancement of the project. The motion died due to a lack of a second.

*A motion was made by IEPA Representative Jack Cruikshank, seconded by Kane Co Representative Heidi Lichtenberger, that the FFY 2023-2028 TIP amendment 25-05 be approved as submitted. The motion carried by the following vote:*

**Aye:** Academic Research Representative 2, ATA Representative, CDOT Representative, CMAP Representative, CoM Representative, Cook Co Representative, CTA Representative, DuPage Co Representative, IDOT-D1 Representative, IDOT - OP&P Representative, IEPA Representative, Kane Co Representative, Kendall Co Representative, Lake Co Representative, McHenry Co Representative, Metra Representative, NIRPC Representative, Pace Representative, RTA Representative, SEWRPC Representative, Tollway Representative, and Will Co Representative

**Nay:** MPC Representative

**Absent:** Academic Research Representative 1, and IDOT - OIPI Representative

**Non-Voting:** FHWA Representative, and FTA Representative

## 6.0 Information Items

### 6.01 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) update

[25-043](#)

**Attachments:** [20250228 TC - RTP Cover Memo](#)  
[RTP emerging priorities report](#)

Ryan Thompto, Principal Policy Analyst, and Julie Reschke, Senior Policy Analyst, provided an update on the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). Principal Thompto reported that the emerging priorities work has progressing simultaneously with the existing conditions and future needs work of the RTP. The emerging priorities work establishes the initial goals and objectives that will be used in the following phases of work.

The Regional Projects Resource Group met earlier this month to discuss evaluation criteria, and this conversation will continue at its next meeting. Staff has begun collecting project information for regional capital projects and a new GIS tool has been developed to help improve efficiency to the process. Work continues on the development of the baseline revenue forecast with the Financial Plan Resource Group recently meeting to discuss assumptions of the forecast work and reasonable expected revenues. The Congestion Management Strategy (CMS) work continues, and that work is beginning to shift into the work regarding strategies. Principal Thompto updated the committee on stakeholder and engagement work.

Senior Policy Analyst Reschke discussed the 2026 RTP emerging priorities report. The emerging priorities report is a major deliverable in the RTP, outlining high level goals and objectives that reflect early research and feedback from stakeholders. Senior Policy Analyst Reschke provided a summary

review of the 2026 RTP goals: 1) strengthen connections between people and places; 2) prioritize safety and public health; 3) mitigate pollution and invest in resilient infrastructure; 4) support economic prosperity and inclusive growth, and 5) strategically govern, fund, and preserve the system.

Discussion ensued regarding areas that should be included in the RTP report. Next steps were reviewed.

*An update of the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) was presented.*

## **6.02 Legislative update**

[25-050](#)

**Attachments:** [6.02 Legislative Update Memo 2025-02-21](#)

Kasia Hart, Senior Specialist presented 2025-2026 Advocacy Agenda recently approved by the CMAP Board in January. The Advocacy Agenda is updated biennially and is developed through the lens of CMAP's ONTO 2050 Plan and Strategic Direction, aligning with CMAP's core focus areas of transportation, climate, and regional economic competitiveness.

Two accomplishments from the 2023-2024 Advocacy Agenda were the integration of the Carbon Reduction Program into the Congestion Mitigation Air Quality programming and the establishment of the Office of National Multimodal Freight within the USDOT. Another accomplishment resulting from the 2023-2024 Advocacy Agenda was reflected in the Plan of Action for Regional Transit and related to enacting a comprehensive strategy to identify and create sustainable revenue sources for the region's transit system.

The 2025-2026 Advocacy Agenda's top priorities include securing an annual appropriation to support a wide range of technical assistance offerings; collaborating with regional implementers, stakeholders, and advocates to shape the new reauthorization legislation that expires in 2026; supporting a sustainable funding source for transportation; supporting investments in safe and complete streets and policies that enable a safe system approach. The Advocacy Agenda also included supporting policies that enhance resilience and reduce emissions and congestion; increasing investments in water resource management; supporting inclusive economic growth; and strengthening and improving the efficiency of good movement in the region.

Erin Aleman, Executive Director, reported that during her time at the National Association of Regional Councils conference in Washington, DC, she attended a panel discussion that included majority and minority staff from the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and the Senate Banking Committee regarding the next transportation bill. They are currently seeking input on improving planning, procurement, permitting, and performance measures.

Discussion ensued.

*The legislative update was presented.*

## **7.0 Other Business**

There was no other business before the committee.

## **8.0 Public Comment**

Garland Armstrong, former Illinois resident, requested RTA, Metra, Amtrak, and Pace add addresses to their stations and stops to improve paratransit services for those who need it. He also encouraged

the agencies to improve ADA accessibility, particularly to the Elmhurst Metra stop, for those with mobility challenges.

## **9.0 Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for April 25, 2025.

## **10.0 Adjournment**

*A motion was made by McHenry Co Representative Scott Hennings, seconded by RTA Representative Kyle Whitehead, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried by the following vote:*

**Aye:** Academic Research Representative 2, ATA Representative, CDOT Representative, CMAP Representative, CoM Representative, Cook Co Representative, CTA Representative, DuPage Co Representative, IDOT-D1 Representative, IDOT - OP&P Representative, IEPA Representative, Kane Co Representative, Kendall Co Representative, Lake Co Representative, McHenry Co Representative, Metra Representative, MPC Representative, NIRPC Representative, Pace Representative, RTA Representative, SEWRPC Representative, Tollway Representative, and Will Co Representative

**Absent:** Academic Research Representative 1, and IDOT - OIPI Representative

**Non-Voting:** FHWA Representative, and FTA Representative

The meeting was adjourned at 11:22 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Blanca Vela-Schneider