



# Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

## Agenda Item 2.01

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### MEMORANDUM

**To:** CMAP Board

**From:** Erin Aleman, Executive Director

**Date:** January 6, 2025

**Subject:** Executive Director's report

**Action Requested:** Information

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Dear Board Members,

This report provides an update ahead of our January 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

## A busy year behind us, another busy year ahead

CMAP had a very busy year — which you'll see in our 2024 CMAP Annual Report on the January agenda and which we'll share highlights from at the January meeting. We weren't just busy on a regional scale — but a global one! In December, I joined a delegation of transportation leaders and advocates — including Senator Ram Villivalam, Representative Eva-Dina Delgado, and other elected and non-elected leaders from the environment, economic, and labor spaces — **for a trip to visit Munich and Berlin in Germany.**

We met with our German counterparts to learn how transit is operated, funded and governed, while getting the chance to explore the systems (riding urban and suburban rail; traveling from Munich to Berlin on a Deutsche Bahn high speed train, which reaches speeds up to 186 mph). This trip connects with CMAP's work on PART, the work and hearings the Illinois General Assembly recently hosted, as well as the **legislative work ahead of us to strengthen transit in the 2025 session.**

Senior Planner Vickie Barrett also took CMAP's work abroad, presenting at **the World Street Congress in Chicago's sister city Osaka, Japan.** The event shared best practices and challenges in creating people-centered spaces on city streets, including some of our safety and planning work. Representatives included public sector and private sector organizations from Paris, New York, and Melbourne, Australia, as well as Kimberly Bares, president and CEO of the Magnificent Mile® Association.

Our work leading the **Safe Travel for All** regionwide safety initiative also continues. The team is actively promoting online engagement for all six participating counties — Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry, and Will — where people can drop pins on safety hotspots maps, take a short survey (to be entered in \$100 visa gift card raffle), and get details on events. So far, we've collected more than 2,500 safety concern locations from more than 1,100 people! Some counties will be wrapping up digital engagement early in the new year, so we greatly appreciate your support sharing this opportunity; to that end, we'll be reaching out directly to municipalities and partners with specifics on a media toolkit.

On the technical assistance front, CMAP was thrilled to be part of the **Austin Coming Together 2024 Membership Awards.** CMAP and the Urban Land Institute Chicago were recognized for our collaborative work on the Central Avenue redevelopment project, which we recently completed. We're honored to be recognized, and look forward to the recommendations in the Austin plan being implemented — not to mention the **8 other plans that were completed this year around the region and 30 newly awarded technical assistance projects in 2024.**

## Advocacy Agenda

As a reminder, the intergovernmental affairs team will present the **2025-2026 Advocacy Agenda**, which outlines CMAP's key policy priorities that can help the region address challenges, seize opportunities, and continue to thrive.

## FY 26 Budget and Work Plan draft

The **proposed FY26 work plan** is posted to the January meeting agenda and we will provide an overview at the January meeting. At the February meeting, we will present on the FY26 proposed budget and request approval of both the work plan and budget. Alongside this process, the Unified Work Program — with more detailed information about money granted to partner agencies — will be shared with the Transportation Committee and submitted for approval by the MPO Policy Committee in early spring. IDOT may request some adjustments and work plan items may also be refined in April and May. Our

final budget and work plan will be submitted to IDOT and take effect at the beginning of the new fiscal year on July 1, 2025.

## Local contributions

One more reminder that last month **CMAP sent annual invoices to our counties, municipalities, and transportation partners**. These will be due in January.

The U.S. Department of Transportation requires a 20% local match to receive federal metropolitan planning funds. Without this support, our region wouldn't be able to unlock those funds to support infrastructure investments and regional transportation priorities. Should you have any questions, please let us know and we will be happy to follow up and provide additional information.