



Chicago Metropolitan
Agency for Planning

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Chicago, IL 60607

312-454-0400
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CMAP BOARD

MEETING MINUTES - DRAFT

Wednesday, April 9, 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 until April 8 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 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) or phone (312-454-0400).

1.0 Call to Order and Introductions

Chair Bennett called the meeting to order at 9:42 a.m.

Present: Gerald Bennett, Frank Beal, Jada Curry, Gary Grasso, Paul Hoefert, Nina Idemudia, John Noak, Richard Reinbold, John Roberson, Nancy Rotering, Joanna Ruiz and Carolyn Schofield

Absent: Matthew Brolley, Anne Sheahan and Matthew Walsh

Non-Voting: Kouros Mohammadian

Absent (NV): Leanne Redden

Noting a physical quorum of the Board, Chair Bennett reported requests were received from Members Paul Hoefert and John Roberson 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 Gary Grasso, seconded by Carolyn Schofield, to allow virtual participation of its remote members. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Gerald Bennett, Frank Beal, Jada Curry, Gary Grasso, John Noak, Richard Reinbold, Nancy Rotering, Joanna Ruiz and Carolyn Schofield

Absent: Matthew Brolley, Anne Sheahan and Matthew Walsh

Non-Voting: Kouros Mohammadian

Not Present: Paul Hoefert, Nina Idemudia and John Roberson

Absent (NV): Leanne Redden

Staff present: Bill Barnes, Alex Beata, Nora Beck, Vas Boykovskyy, Michael Brown, Enrique Castillo, Patrick Day, Teri Dixon, Phoebe Downey, Noah Harris, Craig Heither, Kasia Hart, Jaemi Jackson, Natalie Kuriata, Aimee Lee, Tony Manno, Stephane Phifer, Julie Reschke, Ryan Thompto, Jennie Vana, Blanca Vela-Schneider, Claire Williams

Others present: Garland Armstrong, Eric Czarnota, Kristi DeLaurentiis, Heidi Files, Jane Hirt, Neil James, Brian Larson, Heidi Lichtenberger, Brittany Matyas, Leah Mooney, Leslie Rauer, Erin Roberts, Michael Sewall, Vicky Smith, Cheryl Watson

2.0 Agenda Changes and Announcements

2.01 Executive director's report

[25-080](#)

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

Erin Aleman, Executive Director, reported on her testimony before the House Appropriations-Public Safety and Infrastructure Committee on House Bill 3784 (HB3784) regarding CMAP's Strengthen Communities funding initiative. This bill seeks a \$2 million appropriation for CMAP to fulfill requirements under the Illinois Regional Planning Act that would help build stronger and thriving communities in the region through its Technical Assistance Program. This bill has received more than 70 witness slips from municipalities, advocacy organizations, Council of Governments and Mayors, supporting this bill.

CMAP, in partnership with RTA, received 83 applications at its annual call for projects. The final list of

awarded projects will be identified in early summer. She highlighted two previously awarded projects through the technical assistance program: Harvey Comprehensive Plan and the Grand Avenue Corridor Plan in Franklin Park.

(Member Idemudia arrived at 9:47 a.m.)

The executive director's report included recent engagement events by staff, the updating of the Northeastern Illinois Development database, and the recent release of the Modernizing Illinois' Sales Tax report. Executive Director Aleman also announced that CMAP is planning a State of the Region event on November 4, 2025 to celebrate CMAP's 20th anniversary and announce its regional Vision initiative.

The executive director's report was received and filed.

CONSENT AGENDA (Agenda items 3.01, 4.01 and 4.02)

3.0 Approval of Minutes

Approval of the Group Vote

A motion was made by Member John Noak, seconded by Member Nancy Rotering, to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Gerald Bennett, Frank Beal, Jada Curry, Gary Grasso, Nina Idemudia, John Noak, Richard Reinbold, Nancy Rotering, Joanna Ruiz and Carolyn Schofield

Absent: Matthew Brolley, Anne Sheahan and Matthew Walsh

Non-Voting: Kouros Mohammadian

Not Present: Paul Hoefert and John Roberson

Absent (NV): Leanne Redden

3.01 Minutes from February 12, 2025

[25-079](#)

Attachments: [02.12.25 CMAP Board Minutes - Draft](#)

Agenda items 3.01, 4.01, and 4.02 were approved under the Consent Agenda.

4.0 Procurements and Contract Approvals

4.01 Authorization to enter into contract C-25-0082 with the University of Illinois for water supply planning outreach and education services for a term up to 24 months in an amount not to exceed \$237,000

[25-073](#)

Attachments: [Memo - UI IISG Water Supply Planning Outreach Justification](#)

Agenda items 3.01, 4.01, and 4.02 were approved under the Consent Agenda.

4.02 Authorization to enter into contract C25-0086 with All Together as a result of RFP 336, for facilitation, engagement and event planning for a term up to 12-months, in an amount not to exceed \$272,800

[25-097](#)

Attachments: [Memo - RFP 336 All Together Justification](#)
[Attachment 1 - Evaluation Criteria - RFP 336](#)

Agenda items 3.01, 4.01, and 4.02 were approved under the Consent Agenda.

REGULAR AGENDA

5.0 Executive Session

5.01 Executive session to review closed session minutes pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(21) [25-074](#)

The Board did not enter into Executive Session.

This agenda item was withdrawn.

5.02 Action on the recommendation by staff regarding closed session minutes [25-075](#)

A motion was made by Member Nancy Rotering, seconded by Member Frank Beal, to release the January 11, 2017 closed session minutes and maintain the confidentiality of the remaining closed session minutes. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Gerald Bennett, Frank Beal, Jada Curry, Gary Grasso, Nina Idemudia, John Noak, Richard Reinbold, Nancy Rotering, Joanna Ruiz and Carolyn Schofield

Absent: Matthew Brolley, Anne Sheahan and Matthew Walsh

Non-Voting: Kouros Mohammadian

Not Present: Paul Hoefert and John Roberson

Absent (NV): Leanne Redden

6.0 Information Items

6.01 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) update [25-068](#)

Attachments: [Memo - Emerging Priorities](#)
[RTP Emerging Priorities Report](#)

Julie Reschke, Senior Analyst, reported on emerging priorities. The emerging priorities is the initial step in understanding what is top of mind of the region's transportation partners.

Reschke gave an update on the work for the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), noting staff has begun collecting project information from the agency's implementation partners for the Regional Capital Projects (RCP) and that the resource group is continuing to refine evaluation criteria. The baseline revenue forecast is being developed for the financial plan and staff continue to engage its resource group on the revenues that should be included in the plan. CMAP is focusing on increasing its engagement efforts with the public this summer and engagement tools are available online. Reschke reported that 750 responses have been received since its questionnaire has been available to the public.

The Emerging Priorities Report is a significant milestone in the RTP that outlines high-level goals and objectives, builds off the ON TO 2050 and other regional plans, sets the foundation for upcoming work, reflects input from research and engagement, and sets up the foundation for upcoming activities.

Reschke reviewed the goals of the 2026 RTP: 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.

(Member Noak left the meeting at 10:00 a.m.)

The Board provided feedback regarding the emerging priorities report and additional areas that staff should focus on related to transit, ensuring the plan serves the entire region, and how the region will change in the next several years.

An update was presented on the Regional Transportation Plan.

6.02 Congestion Management Strategy update

[25-069](#)

Attachments: [Memo - Congestion Management Strategy](#)

Noah Harris, Analyst, presented the Congestion Mitigation Strategy. Federal regulations establish the Congestion Management Process (CMP) as a required component of regional transportation planning for urbanized areas. The CMP should align and support the advancement of all our transportation goals and these measures and strategies can feed directly into the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP).

The FHWA defines the CMP as a systematic and regionally-accepted approach for managing congestion that provides information on system performance and assesses strategies to meet state and local needs. The FHWA provides guidance documentation for its eight-step model on congestion management. To address each of the steps, CMAP established resource groups with subject matter experts, key transportation partners, and organizations throughout the region to guide the elements of the work.

Harris reviewed the eight steps in the CMP including the last three steps related to strategies: identifying and assessing strategies; programming and implementing strategies, and evaluating strategy effectiveness. The CMP's objectives are to provide access to jobs and destinations, improve reliability on all modes of transit systems, enhance transit and active transportation options, and reduce the impacts of extreme weather, construction, and special events.

As part of the planning for priority corridors, CMAP will identify congestion problems and their root causes. CMAP will then apply strategies that are comprehensive and flexible and encourage cost-effectiveness; are right-sized to their context; and are consistent with RTP goals.

Harris reviewed peer examples from Southern California Association of Governments and Metropolitan Council of Twin Cities that CMAP is considering modeling. CMAP's primary deliverables would be to develop a strategies guidebook and a comprehensive corridor study template.

Next steps were discussed with corridor evaluations set to begin in the summer of 2025.

Discussion ensued regarding the corridor evaluation process, looking at technology to help mitigate congestion, understanding the history of zoning and transit and how decisions impact residents and communities.

An update on the Congestion Management Strategy was presented.

6.03 Legislative update

[25-070](#)

Attachments: [Memo - Legislative Update](#)
[RPA Factsheet 3-10-2025](#)

Kasia Hart, Senior Specialist, reported that staff continues to monitor recent executive orders and other federal directives for their impact on the region. CMAP met with county engineers to hear how these federal actions are impacting local transportation programming and planning. The discussion focused on US DOT guidance that requires additional review of unobligated discretionary awards. CMAP's review estimates that the amount of these awards subject to this review are in the \$100s of millions.

The next surface transportation reauthorization process is currently underway. Secretary Duffy provided testimony into the Environment and Public Works (EPW) Committee and provided insight to what the US DOT is seeking in a reauthorization bill. CMAP is developing a process to develop shared principles for the next reauthorization bill.

Hart reported that the most recent continuing resolution by the federal government did not include funding for FY26 member priority projects. Senator Duckworth's office is prioritizing funding FY25 requests and is not seeking new applications for FY26. Each of the members of the delegation are handling their process differently.

At the state level, CMAP continues to gather support on House Bill (HB)3784, the Strengthen Communities RPA funding initiative. She thanked members and agencies for their engagement and support. The goal is to get this bill incorporated in the final FY26 budget.

Transit reform and funding continue to be deliberated. Two bills have been filed: HB5823, the Metropolitan Mobility Authority (MMA) Act and Senate Bill (SB) 1938, the Illinois Road Usage Charge Act. The Senate Transportation Committee had a subject matter hearing on the operating fiscal cliff for our region and downstate. Some members are hosting transit listening sessions with their constituents and have asked CMAP to provide information on the PART report.

A legislative update was provided.

7.0 Other Business

There was no other business to conduct.

8.0 Public Comment

Garland Armstrong, a former Illinois resident, suggested CMAP engage Access Living to understand their concerns. He requested Amtrak attend a Transportation Committee so that he can ask them about additional routes.

9.0 Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for May 14, 2025.

10.0 Adjournment

A motion was made by Member Frank Beal, seconded by Member Richard Reinbold, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Gerald Bennett, Frank Beal, Jada Curry, Gary Grasso, Paul Hoefert, Nina Idemudia, Richard Reinbold, John Roberson, Nancy Rotering, Joanna Ruiz and Carolyn Schofield

Absent: Matthew Brolley, Anne Sheahan and Matthew Walsh

Non-Voting: Kouros Mohammadian

Not Present: John Noak

Absent (NV): Leanne Redden

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Blanca Vela-Schneider