



Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

Agenda Item 4.01

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MEMORANDUM

To: CMAP Board

From: Erin Aleman, Executive Director

Date: April 3, 2024

Subject: Executive director's report

Action Requested: Information

Dear Board Members,

It is my pleasure to present the Executive Director's Report outlining notable updates ahead of our meeting in April. This memorandum is intended to provide greater transparency to CMAP's work and supplement the agenda.

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

Please note that previously, these written reports were provided *after* Board meetings. They also included details on CMAP communications such as newsletters, media coverage, and metrics. Those will now be provided on a quarterly basis — and will include additional content such as engagement activities and technical assistance updates.

Sincerely,

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

Erin Aleman

2024 technical assistance call for projects has closed

The CMAP technical assistance and RTA community planning program call for projects was tremendously successful: we received a combined 122 applications from 96 applicants throughout the region. This is a huge response, given that our past annual average has been 50-60 applications. The top three CMAP categories included applications for: ADA self-evaluation and transition plans, bike and pedestrian plans, and corridor plans. CMAP and RTA staff will be busy reviewing applications, interviewing applicants, and preparing scores. We plan to announce the final list of awarded projects in June. For details, see the Call for Projects 2024 memo also attached to the April Board agenda.

ADA spring training

A friendly reminder that [registration is open](#) for CMAP's spring accessibility trainings, which cover topics like the Americans with Disabilities Act, ADA self-evaluations and transition plans, and the Illinois Accessibility Code. Trainings will take place April 15-16 and May 1-2. At this point, CMAP does not plan to offer future trainings on these topics, so we encourage your communities to seize this opportunity. These trainings are designed for municipal staff, public works staff, ADA coordinators, elected and appointed officials, community leaders, and anyone interested in learning about how to make their communities more accessible.

Data Land Use Inventory update

Our 2020 Land Use Inventory, which identifies up to 50 different land categories in northeastern Illinois, is [now available for download](#). It classifies all properties in the region into residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural, and other categories. This data is useful for understanding how we use and develop land and how that use has changed over time, with available data going back to 1990.

The Land Use Inventory is a resource for planners, government agencies, university researchers, non-governmental organizations, consulting firms, and more. It can help you understand existing land uses when creating a comprehensive plan and track progress towards goals. For example, you can analyze the success of development policies, such as tracking if recent policies have led to more infill and transit-oriented development.

I-290/Blue Line Corridor project update

CMAP, in partnership with the U.S. Department of Transportation's Build America Bureau, will hold a technical assistance workshop with its I-290/Blue Line Corridor project partners, the Illinois Department of Transportation and the Chicago Transit Authority, on April 4 and 5. The project partners will convene to discuss challenges, identify opportunities for collaboration and innovation, and develop a shared vision for continued progress on the corridor. This will be built on the Joint Statement of Understanding between the project partners to advance this critical multimodal corridor.

MPO Policy Committee Recap

The MPO Policy Committee met on March 14 and approved the FY25 Unified Work Plan. The committee will meet again on June 13.