



MEMORANDUM

To: CMAP Board

From: The Century Plan project team

Date: December 23, 2025

Subject: The Century Plan update

Action Requested: Information

2026 will mark a time of ample engagement on The Century Plan as development of the plan begins in earnest. Building on the success of the State of the Region event, engagement on The Century Plan will primarily follow two paths. First, CMAP will work with each Council of Government to provide a look at how regional trends are manifesting at a local level, and how these findings align with priorities already identified in recent local and subregional plans.

Second, CMAP will host a series of public forums across the region to elevate and explore important questions about the future development of northeastern Illinois. These events will be coupled with exciting site visits, walking tours, demonstrations, and other opportunities to experience public issues and innovations firsthand with our local partners. Alongside this engagement, we will continue to refine analyses around regional trends and strategic foresight. Collectively, the insights gathered from these processes will inform a plan preview – the overall direction for The Century Plan and anticipated grand challenges the Plan will seek to address.

The CMAP Board will play a critical role in shaping this direction and identifying the shared challenges the region should prioritize. To help shape our ongoing dialogue, [Amy Liu](#), Nonresident Senior Fellow at the Brookings Metro within the Brookings Institution, will lead the CMAP Board in a discussion about organizing for impact. When harnessed effectively, [regions and regional institutions](#) have the power and potential to effectuate transformative change and be leaders in economic innovation. Amy will provide insights into how the CMAP Board can support The Century Plan's development into an actionable tool to advance regional progress.

ACTION REQUESTED: Information