

MEMORANDUM

To: CMAP Board

From: The Century Plan project team

Date: March 27, 2026

Subject: The Century Plan update

Action Requested: Information

Through The Century Plan, CMAP will continue to facilitate conversations across the region to develop a collective understanding of the challenges northeastern Illinois is facing and the shared commitments needed to orient ourselves toward a shared vision for the future.

To support these efforts, CMAP is conducting a foresight-driven scenario planning exercise that will explore the possible futures of northeastern Illinois. Ultimately, by developing a greater understanding of both present-day and future shifts — as well as the potential implications of change — this effort will help to identify the areas of uncertainty and opportunity that may face the region over the coming decades. This will inform The Century Plan so that it is forward-looking, actionable, and relevant over the long-term.

Following up on their previous presentation to the CMAP Board and MPO Policy Committee in October 2025, the Board will hear from Helen Kerr from KerrSmith Design. Ms. Kerr will provide an update on recent work that identified the driving forces and shifts that could shape the region over time. The presentation will also demonstrate how these indicators of change can present themselves differently over time to result in distinct future scenarios.

ACTION REQUESTED: Information