

MEMORANDUM

To: CMAP Board

From: CMAP Intergovernmental Affairs staff

Date: December 13, 2024

Subject: 2025-2026 Federal and State Advocacy Agenda

Action Requested: Approval

Purpose

One of CMAP's responsibilities is to develop an advocacy agenda that outlines policy positions and priorities that address challenges and seize opportunities across all levels of government. Updated biennially, the agenda is developed through the lens of ON TO 2050 and the strategic direction, ensuring that CMAP continuously strengthens and advances regional goals in transportation, climate, and economic competitiveness.

Background

The advocacy agenda is a tool used to inform policymakers and elected officials with concrete and tangible actions that can be taken to effectuate change. While the theme of the 2023-2024 Advocacy Agenda focused on promoting a robust economic recovery from the pandemic, CMAP's 2025-2026 Advocacy Agenda acknowledges the economic uncertainties that lie ahead over the next several years, particularly with the expiration of federal aid.

The top priority in this agenda is securing a dedicated annual appropriation from the Illinois General Assembly. To broaden and expand support for local communities throughout the region, the Regional Funding Act (RPA) funding request is included at the beginning of the updated agenda to highlight the importance of this initiative.

In developing the 2025-2026 Advocacy Agenda, CMAP took into consideration the upcoming surface transportation reauthorization process and how the agenda's guiding principles can help shape the development of upcoming reauthorization legislation. Building on CMAP's recent policy research and regional policy priorities, CMAP pulled from the Plan of Action for Regional Transit (PART) and Speed Management Report and incorporated key policy recommendations into the agenda. These recommendations offer concrete steps for federal and state lawmakers to sustainably fund and advance regional transportation improvements, fostering a safe, reliable, and world-class system.

Through the U.S. EPA's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG), CMAP is developing the region's Climate Action Plan. With a foundational understanding of the region's climate goals and policy priorities, the updated advocacy agenda emphasizes strengthening policies at both the federal and state levels that enhance resilience, cut emissions, and alleviate congestion while also expanding resources for integrated water resources management.

As CMAP continues to bolster the region's economic competitiveness and build on the tremendous success of the Greater Chicagoland Economic Partnership (GCEP), the agenda outlines how federal and state partners can help the region better prioritize strategic and sustainable development practices, strengthen housing coordination, encourage regional innovation and coordination, improve access to high-quality jobs, and promote investment in communities that have felt the brunt of disinvestment for decades.

CMAP's 2025-2026 Advocacy Agenda outlines our critical path priorities that can help the region address challenges, seize opportunities and continue to thrive. This memo includes the 2025-2026 Advocacy Agenda attachment for approval, detailing the full list of policy positions and priorities.

Recommendation

Board approval of the 2025-2026 Advocacy Agenda

Attachment 1: 2025-2026 Advocacy Agenda

Attachment 2: 9-13-24 CMAP LSLR