



CMAP BOARD

MEETING MINUTES - FINAL

Wednesday, May 13, 2026

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 May 12, 2026, 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/82917643166?pwd=T5D697gzTxXjvaPBrescB9BeRxuTB1.1>

Conference Call number: 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 829 1764 3166 Passcode: 056489

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

Mayor Bennett called the meeting to order at 9:36 a.m.

Present: Gerald Bennett, Frank Beal, Matthew Brolley, Jada Curry, Gary Grasso, Paul Hoefert, Nina Idemudia, John Noak, Nancy Rotering, Joanna Ruiz, Carolyn Schofield, Anne Sheahan, Matthew Walsh and Jung Yoon

Absent: Richard Reinbold

Non-Voting: Kouros Mohammadian

Noting a physical quorum of the Board, Chair Bennett reported requests were received from Members Matt Brolley, Paul Hoefert, John Noak, Carolyn Schofield, and Jung Yoon to attend the meeting virtually in compliance with the Open Meets Act. A vote is needed to approve their virtual attendance.

A motion was made by Member Gary Grasso, seconded by Member Nancy Rotering, to permit Members Matt Brolley, Paul Hoefert, John Noak, Carolyn Schofield, and Jung Yoon to participate in the meeting in accordance with Open Meetings Act requirements. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Gerald Bennett, Frank Beal, Jada Curry, Gary Grasso, Nina Idemudia, Nancy Rotering, Joanna Ruiz, Anne Sheahan and Matthew Walsh

Absent: Richard Reinbold

Non-Voting: Kouros Mohammadian

Not Present: Matthew Brolley, Paul Hoefert, John Noak, Carolyn Schofield and Jung Yoon

Staff present: Erin Aleman, Bill Barnes, Nora Beck, Vas Boykovskyy, Elizabeth Ginsberg, Ryan Gougis, Craig Hamill, Kasia Hart, Aimee Lee, Maren Lutterbach, Stephane Phifer, George Rivera, Charlie Rotering, Kyle Schulz, Jennie Vana, Blanca Vela-Schneider, Elizabeth Scott, Ismet Sulamc, Claire Williams

Others present: Garland Armstrong, Eric Czarnota, Rithvika Dara, Heidi Files, Dan Forbush, Danielle Hamer, Gretchen Klock, David Kovarik, Brian Larson, Heidi Lichtenberger, Brittany Matyas, Stacey Paradis, Andrew Plenge, Mark Pruitt, Leslie Rauer, Vicky Smith, Joe Surdam

2.0 Agenda Changes and Announcements

There were no changes to the agenda.

2.01 Executive Director's report

[26-109](#)

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

Erin Aleman provided an update on recent activities of the agency. She reported on her trip to Washington, D.C. for the Coalition for America's Gateways and Trade Corridors meeting, where she serves as board chair during the organization's 25th anniversary year. While there, she also met with Senator Duckworth to discuss infrastructure funding and the federal transportation reauthorization bill.

The Executive Director also shared insights from a study trip to the Netherlands focused on bicycling infrastructure, multimodal mobility, and integrated approaches to housing and transportation investment. She noted that the Netherlands' coordinated land use and affordability strategies offer lessons relevant to CMAP's Century Plan work.

Erin Aleman announced the release of the My Daily Travel Survey Analysis, now available on CMAP’s Data Hub. The findings highlight increased midday travel, continued telecommuting, and longer trip lengths compared with pre-pandemic patterns. She noted that staff can assist members in interpreting these trends locally.

Director Aleman furthermore informed the Board that Safe Streets and Roads for All funding is open for applications, with many communities eligible due to CMAP’s regional safety action plans. She also congratulated CMAP’s communications team for receiving a national award for the Safe Travel for All website and related outreach.

In addition, she announced the publication of the updated 2026 Land Use Inventory, incorporating 2023 parcel data to support long-range regional forecasting.

Erin Aleman concluded by highlighting recent Century Plan Catalyst Series events on industrial development, climate action, and water governance and emphasized that energy and water infrastructure continue to emerge as top regional priorities and will be central components of the Century Plan moving forward.

The Executive Director's report was presented.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of the Group Vote

A motion was made by Member Nancy Rotering, seconded by Member Nina Idemudia, to approve agenda items 3.01 through 4.01 under the Consent Agenda. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Gerald Bennett, Frank Beal, Matthew Brolley, Jada Curry, Gary Grasso, Paul Hoefert, Nina Idemudia, John Noak, Nancy Rotering, Joanna Ruiz, Carolyn Schofield, Anne Sheahan and Matthew Walsh

Absent: Richard Reinbold

Non-Voting: Kouros Mohammadian

Not Present: Jung Yoon

3.0 Approval of Minutes

3.01 Minutes from April 8, 2026

[26-111](#)

Attachments: [4.8.26 CMAP Board meeting minutes draft](#)

Agenda items 3.01 through 4.01 were approved under the Consent Agenda.

4.0 Other Items for Approval

4.01 Report on Line of Credit (LOC) utilization

[26-110](#)

Attachments: [Memo - Report on Line of Credit \(LOC\) utilization](#)

Agenda items 3.01 through 4.01 were approved under the Consent Agenda.

REGULAR AGENDA

5.0 Information Items

5.01 Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP) update

[26-120](#)

Attachments: [Memo - CCAP update](#)

Nora Beck, principal in the Regional Policy and Implementation Division, presented an overview of the Comprehensive Climate Action Plan for Greater Chicago and provided an update on its release and next steps. The plan was developed in partnership with the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus and the Northwest Indiana Regional Planning Commission and was formally submitted to the U.S. EPA's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Program, which funded the work, and has now been publicly released on CMAP's website.

Beck explained that the plan offers a data-driven roadmap to reduce regional greenhouse gas emissions by 86 percent by 2050 through more than 30 strategies across multiple sectors. She emphasized that the analysis shows that state and local action alone can achieve a substantial portion of needed reductions - up to 58 percent - demonstrating that meaningful progress does not rely solely on federal intervention.

Nora Beck provided additional detail on the central role of the electric grid, noting that nearly every major strategy in the plan depends on a grid that is both cleaner and more capable of meeting rising demand driven by building electrification, electric vehicles, and industrial transitions. She explained that generation, transmission, and distribution systems operate on different timelines and under different authorities, which makes coordinated planning critical. She also highlighted emerging uncertainty created by rapid growth in energy-intensive sectors, such as data centers and advanced manufacturing, and stressed the importance of local decisions in shaping energy demand through land use, building practices, and distributed energy resources.

Nora Beck then focused on the buildings sector, which currently accounts for roughly 35 percent of the region's emissions. She explained that buildings are one of the most actionable sectors because state and local governments already control many of the policy levers involved. The plan identifies three major components of the building transition: electrification, energy efficiency, and improved building codes and performance standards. She noted that state and local action alone could achieve 77 percent of the reductions needed from buildings by 2050. She also outlined how municipalities can lead by example through public building retrofits, support implementation by removing local barriers to solar, storage, and EV infrastructure, and advocate for statewide policies that help scale these efforts.

Throughout the presentation, she emphasized that implementation will require not only policy alignment, but also funding, technical assistance, and peer support. Many tools already exist - including utility programs, state financing, and regional networks - but need stronger regional coordination. Beck concluded by highlighting that the plan's findings align closely with ongoing Century Plan engagement, particularly around energy reliability, equitable implementation, and long-term resilience.

Board members engaged in a detailed discussion on topics such as the limits of local versus regional control over transmission, opportunities for battery storage, affordability concerns, implications for

housing costs, incentives for rooftop solar on commercial buildings, and the role of CMAP's technical assistance in supporting coordinated climate action.

The CCAP update was presented.

5.02 The Century Plan update

[26-118](#)

Attachments: [Memo - The Century Plan update](#)

The Board participated in an extended panel discussion on regional energy challenges, grid modernization, and implications for economic competitiveness. The panel featured Mark Pruitt, principal of The Power Bureau and former director of the Illinois Power Agency; Desislava Dikova of Pure Lithium, a battery researcher and policy lead; Commissioner Stacey Paradis of the Illinois Commerce Commission; and Andrew Plenge, Vice President of Strategy and Energy Policy at ComEd.

The panel discussed why energy and grid modernization have become urgent priorities across the CMAP region. Panelists agreed that electrification, climate pressures, data center growth, and increased reliance on digital infrastructure are creating rapid load growth, while grid components - generation, transmission, and distribution - operate under different regulatory and investment timelines. They emphasized that grid modernization requires coordinated planning and significant investment to maintain reliability, manage peak demand, and enable economic development.

(CMAP Board Member Jung Yoon joined the meeting at 10:19 a.m.)

Mark Pruitt highlighted the region's emerging capacity constraints, noting that while Illinois historically exported power, retirements of large power plants have shifted the balance. He stressed that without sufficient capacity, the region risks losing opportunities for new housing, industrial development, and data centers. He also noted the long lead times required to build new utility scale resources and encouraged municipalities to deepen their understanding of reliability standards, hosting capacity maps, and local substation impacts.

Commissioner Paradis addressed the regulatory landscape, explaining that energy prices and system adequacy have become central policy issues nationwide. She outlined the state's new responsibilities under recently passed legislation, including the development of a statewide integrated resource plan and the need to coordinate electric and gas system planning. She emphasized affordability as the ICC's top concern and underscored the importance of accurate load forecasting to prevent under or overbuilding system infrastructure.

Desi Dikova spoke about the potential role of advanced battery storage in strengthening the grid. She described Pure Lithium's high density battery chemistry and vertically integrated domestic supply chain model, noting that the technology could support microgrids, resilience hubs, and decentralized energy solutions if scaled with appropriate public sector support.

Andrew Plenge discussed ComEd's investments in modern distribution technologies, distributed generation integration, and demand side management programs. He highlighted Illinois' strong position relative to other metropolitan areas, noting high reliability and competitive rates, while acknowledging system pressures from largescale users and climate driven weather events. He encouraged municipalities to engage early with ComEd when considering new developments, rooftop solar, or energy intensive land uses to ensure accurate cost and capacity assessments.

Throughout the discussion, Board members raised questions about data center siting, local zoning authority, the tradeoff between solar farms and other land uses, the public's understanding of energy infrastructure, and how CMAP can support municipalities with technical guidance. Panelists underscored that local governments are uniquely positioned to educate residents, streamline permitting, integrate land use and energy planning, and advocate for their communities in state level processes.

The panel concluded by emphasizing that coordinated action - across utilities, regulators, local governments, and regional partners - is essential to maintaining affordability, achieving climate goals, and preparing the region for long-term economic growth.

(CMAP Board Member Nancy Rotering left the meeting at 10:45 a.m.)

The Century Plan update was presented.

5.03 Legislative update

[26-117](#)

Attachments: [Memo - Legislative update](#)

A substantial legislative update was provided in the Board's agenda packet; no verbal presentation was given during the meeting.

The legislative update was received and filed.

6.0 Other Business

There was no other business before the CMAP Board.

Member Nina Idemudia requested that future panels include community-based and diverse perspectives, noting that the discussion had not addressed environmental justice, land use, or impacts on vulnerable communities. She emphasized the importance of grounding expert panels in CMAP's values and incorporating social, political, and demographic context to provide a fuller picture.

7.0 Public Comment

This is an opportunity for comments from members of the audience.

Garland Armstrong commented on the importance of ensuring that ADA communities are included in discussions about energy, infrastructure, and preparedness and encouraged CMAP to conduct outreach and provide information in accessible formats and multiple languages.

8.0 Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for June 10, 2026.

9.0 Adjournment

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

Aye: Gerald Bennett, Frank Beal, Matthew Brolley, Jada Curry, Gary Grasso, Paul Hoefert, Nina Idemudia, John Noak, Joanna Ruiz, Carolyn Schofield, Anne Sheahan, Matthew Walsh and Jung Yoon

Absent: Richard Reinbold

Non-Voting: Kouros Mohammadian

Not Present: Nancy Rotering

The meeting was adjourned at 11:03 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Maren Lutterbach using Microsoft Copilot M365.