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MEMORANDUM

To: Transportation Committee

From: CMAP Staff

Date: September 5, 2025

Subject: Regional Transportation Plan update

Action Requested: Information

General update

The Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) continues to advance through research, data analysis, and stakeholder engagement. As of August 2025, more than 1,400 people from all seven counties in the CMAP region have responded to the RTP questionnaire.

Several themes have emerged from the responses:

- The most pressing transportation challenges are vehicle speeding, road congestion, and access to transit.
- Respondents want greater investment in infrastructure that supports transit, walking, and biking.
- Safety, reliability, and – particularly for transit – frequency of service are key factors in travel choices.
- Beyond transportation options, respondents value a system that strengthens communities, supports economic development, builds resilience, and protects farmland and natural resources.

These insights, combined with ongoing research, data analysis, and partner engagement, will guide the strategies included in the final RTP.

Financial plan update

To meet federal requirements for fiscal constraint, CMAP is preparing long-range financial forecasts to estimate baseline revenues and expenditures and identify additional reasonably expected revenues. Working with a [resource group](#) of regional transportation stakeholders, CMAP has:

- developed baseline assumptions for revenues and expenditures;
- examined the implications of current and future policies; and

- refined a methodology that is transparent, accurate, and appropriate for a planning-level forecast.

Since sharing the draft baseline revenue forecast last spring, CMAP has updated the analysis and are finalizing the expenditure forecast. The expenditure forecast provides a framework for prioritizing investments by allocating planned costs across categories such as administration, operations, maintenance, improvements, enhancements, and expansion. These categories will help clarify regional funding priorities, investment strategies, and trade-offs – for example, balancing asset condition targets, needed system enhancements, and capacity expansion.

As with past financial plans, expenditures for 2027-2050 are projected to exceed the baseline revenues that will be available, underscoring the need for additional revenues to support the transportation system over the planning horizon. To support the identification of reasonably expected revenues, CMAP published [Transportation funding strategies: Revenue options for consideration in the Financial Plan for Transportation](#). Additional policy briefs that explore tolling and congestion pricing strategies and next steps towards implementing a road usage charge in Illinois are forthcoming.

Regional capital projects

Through coordination with partner agencies, CMAP has identified 138 Regional Capital Projects (RCPs) for inclusion in the RTP. Each project is being evaluated for how well it advances regional transportation goals. The evaluations consider measurable criteria such as existing asset conditions, travel time performance, and the expected impacts on regional travel times and emissions based on outputs from the regional travel demand model. A [draft RCP Benefits Report](#) summarizing the benefits that each proposed project offers to the region is now available. The RCP candidates can also be viewed in an [interactive map](#).

Congestion management

CMAP has published the [Congestion Management Strategy Guidebook](#), a resource for transportation agencies, local governments, and other planning partners responsible for reducing congestion and improving system performance. The guidebook outlines strategies aligned with regional transportation goals and provides a framework to guide decision-making.

Building on this work, CMAP will also produce a *Comprehensive Corridor Study Template*. This resource will provide guidance for implementing congestion management strategies at the corridor level, particularly for priority corridors, with an emphasis on multiagency coordination. Later this year, CMAP will present a draft list of priority corridors for review and feedback.