



MEMORANDUM

To: CMAP Board

From: Tony Manno
Principal Planner, Planning

Date: August 30, 2024

Re: Greater Chicagoland Economic Partnership update

Action Requested: Information

The Greater Chicagoland Economic Partnership (GCEP) is a regional strategic economic development alliance formed through extensive discussions with cross-sector stakeholders over the course of three years (2020-2023). Spearheaded by CMAP and the Brookings Institute, with support from the Searle Fund at the Chicago Community Trust, GCEP aims to drive inclusive economic growth in the Chicagoland region. The partnership focuses on promoting the region's assets, including transportation infrastructure, diverse talent, key industries, and the innovation ecosystem, including universities, incubators, and startups. Partners include Cook, DuPage, Kane, Kendall, Lake, McHenry, and Will counties, along with the City of Chicago and World Business Chicago (WBC).

In its first year, GCEP efforts successfully:

- Supported job growth, helping to create and retain more than 8,500 jobs.
- Published the [Greater Chicagoland Region Asset Map](#) — a valuable tool that highlights our region's strengths.
- Featured public sector opportunities and key wins with economic impacts.

GCEP's focus on "Pro-Chicagoland Decisions" led to 64 successful decisions, 40 regional leads shared, and 24 connections made to county partners in its first year. This resulted in 8,576 jobs that were created or retained and over \$715.9 million in direct or indirect worker earnings. GCEP played a crucial role in significant business decisions, such as S&C Electric's expansion, Upside Foods' entry, SyBridge Technologies' consolidation, Flender Corporation's expansion, Ravago's Midwest distribution center, Henry Broch Foods' headquarters expansion, General Kinematics' presence in Crystal Lake, and Lion Electric's Joliet factory.

GCEP's first year demonstrated successful collaboration and impactful economic development, setting the stage for sustained growth and regional prosperity in the Chicagoland area.

CMAP staff and representatives from World Business Chicago and the Greater Chicagoland Economic Partnership will discuss highlights of year one of the partnership, as well as speak to the future of the partnership and how it relates to CMAP's work.