



Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

Agenda Item 2.01

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MEMORANDUM

To: CMAP Board
From: Erin Aleman, Executive Director
Date: October 2025
Subject: Executive Director's report
Action Requested: Information

Dear Board Members,

This report provides an update ahead of our October meeting with the goal of greater transparency to CMAP's work and to supplement the agenda.

Should you have questions regarding this report, please feel free to reach out to me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Erin Aleman", is positioned above the printed name.

Erin Aleman

The Century Plan

At the Board's September meeting, we focused on The Century Plan — a vision for northeastern Illinois for 2060 and beyond.

In case you missed it, you can watch the presentation and discussion from the meeting. In addition to an update on where we are and where we headed with planning efforts, we also shared success stories from our previous plans, GO TO 2040 and ON TO 2050. [Watch video](#).

The information serves as a good primer in advance of the October joint Board and MPO Policy Committee meeting and interactive workshop on scenario planning and strategic foresight as part of our vision work.

We will publicly launch The Century Plan and celebrate CMAP's 20-year anniversary on November 4th at CMAP's State of the Region event. The [public portal](#) to purchase tickets is now open.

We look forward to celebrating the public launch of The Century Plan and CMAP's 20-year anniversary with you.

Technical assistance: Progress on corridors, communities, and connections

Through CMAP's [Technical Assistance program](#), communities across the region are turning planning ideas into actionable strategies. By working hand in hand with local leaders, residents, and partners, these projects reflect the power of collaboration to address safety, infrastructure, and quality-of-life opportunities at the community level.

- **Cicero Safety Action Plan**
With extensive public engagement and crash data analysis, [this plan](#) targets reductions in traffic fatalities and serious injuries. It lays out strategies to enhance pedestrian crossings, safer infrastructure, and street-level interventions to make streets safer for all users.
- **Greater Ashburn Safety Action Plan**
Developed in partnership with the Greater Ashburn Development Association, [this plan](#) applies the Safe System Approach, identifies priority corridors, schools, and parks for safety upgrades, and proposes context-sensitive interventions (e.g., traffic calming, rail crossing treatments, pedestrian enhancements) to reduce serious traffic incidents.
- **Pavement Management Plans in nine communities**
Addison, Bannockburn, Fox Lake, Godley, Indian Head Park, Palos Heights, Richton Park, St. Charles, and Wood Dale have adopted pavement management plans. These documents assess pavement conditions, model investment needs, recommend maintenance or rehabilitation strategies, and help those municipalities prioritize and stretch limited infrastructure dollars.

Numerous additional technical assistance efforts are currently underway across the region, advancing corridor and site planning, safety, and active transportation goals in close collaboration with local communities. These projects reflect CMAP's commitment to helping

municipalities plan for growth, strengthen connectivity, and improve quality of life. To learn more about these efforts — and to share input through surveys, maps, and other tools — please visit CMAP's [engagement page](#).

Federal activities

With federal transportation reauthorization on the horizon, CMAP is helping our region speak with one voice — publishing principles to guide both northeastern Illinois priorities and shared priorities among the nation's largest metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs). The current transportation bill — the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) — expires in September 2026, creating urgency for a new package that ensures stable, predictable funding. For MPOs like CMAP, reauthorization is critical because it sets the rules and resources that shape regional plans, prioritize projects, and support collaboration across all levels of government.

A diverse coalition of regional transportation implementers, civic and advocacy organizations, and labor partners worked with CMAP to develop [One Regional Voice 2025](#), which reflects the shared principles of northeastern Illinois' transportation implementers and stakeholders for the federal surface transportation reauthorization.

Additionally, CMAP convened peer MPOs representing some of the nation's largest regions to identify [common reauthorization principles](#). This group is united in support of a robust transportation reauthorization agenda, including funding levels and policies that empower regions to meet the nation's evolving transportation needs.

Q1 FY2026 Communications and Engagement metrics and media

The CMAP Communications and Engagement team informs and influences through various platforms — meeting our partners where they are — and these quarterly metrics reports capture the agency's extensive work engaging with our many stakeholders.

CMAP Communications & Engagement

Social/newsletters metrics

Q1 FY2026: July-September

	11 newsletters Topics including accessibility, regional economy, climate, transportation, and more
	16,906 Total unique newsletter opens
	119,002 social media impressions Across Instagram, LinkedIn, Facebook, and Threads
	45 mentions Media coverage covering topics like housing, safe travel, the transit fiscal cliff, climate, and more (see below for links)

CMAP Communications & Engagement Engagement metrics Q1 FY2026: July-September



77 events in 7 counties

Highlights included ongoing community engagement for the Regional Transportation Plan, speaking engagements, and steering committee meetings for local accessibility and safety plans



18,352

Engagement HQ site visits

2,959

New contributions, with 14% of visitors contributing to projects

CMAP Q1FY26 media mentions

[Surface Transportation News: Infrastructure Stimulus Bill, Highway Investment and COVID-19](#)

[Why rail, public transit could make central Ohio land more valuable](#)

[The Traffic Guy 2.0 hears...](#)

Reason Org

NBC 4

Evanston Round Table

Chicago transit's \$771M fiscal cliff could shrink because of extra sales tax	Crain's Chicago Business
WVON-AM broadcast	WVON-AM
Kane County launches Smart Sprinkler pilot to cut water use, protect aquifers	Daily Herald
Will LinkUS change the way Columbus commutes?	NBC 4
Council faces 100+ comp plan edits	Evanston Now
Special City Council meeting will see Envision plan amended, but not adopted	Evanston Round Table
Eye On Illinois: Do your research now before ideas become substantial proposals	Shaw Local
Are city's concrete bike lane barriers a violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act?	News-Star
Lake County announces six-month housing coalition initiative	Lake County Gazette
State Sen. Ram Villivalam: Here's how we can stop Chicagoland transit from falling off the fiscal cliff	Streetsblog Chicago
Derailed: Looming funding cuts to Philadelphia's transit system offer a lesson for Chicago	Chicago Tribune
Kane County needs participants for Smart Sprinkler pilot program	Daily Herald
City Council notes: Population projections still on the docket	Evanston Round Table
Former Barrington Village President Darch receives 2025 Simon-Edgar Award	The Southern Illinoisan
The Weeks Aug. 10: Gobble Doggs, Beyond Borders, streetscape update, HFD honored for film role, 'Matilda' the musical, 'Matilda' the film	Homewood-Flossmoor Chronicle
Willie Wilson: Even Pharaoh knew his limits when it came to taxes	Chicago Tribune
Cutting parking for homes built near transit aims to ease housing crunch	Chicago Sun Times
The Weeks Aug. 17: Streetscape update, road diet plea, Trail Mix concert, Civics Academy signup open, youth karate, library hosts sales, Choo-Choo Ride	Homewood-Flossmoor Chronicle
CTA Unveils New Argyle Red Line Station, Businesses Split on Whether It Was Worth It	Borderless
Modernizing Illinois' Sales Tax: a Pathway to a Sustainable Future	State Universities Annuity Association
Crest Hill residents invited to share input for regional transportation plan	Will County Gazette

The Weeks Aug. 24: Delanoe's bid, Homewood sales tax discussion, new HHS president, last Choo-Choo Ride, streetscape update, bike path meeting, Meet Our Docs	Homewood-Flossmoor Chronicle
Focus on Safety: CMAP study offers glimpse at types of cargo in local trains	Homewood-Flossmoor Chronicle
Park Forest seeks resident input on long-term regional transportation planning	Will County Gazette
Urban coyote spatiotemporal overlap with humans is associated with environmental characteristics not human sociodemographics	Nature.com
Pavement condition assessment scheduled for Crest Hill in late August	Will County Gazette
Evanston awarded \$10.06 million for Chicago Avenue improvement project	The Daily Northwestern
'This is my family's story': Fujian groups celebrate heritage in Chicago	Chicago Tribune
Editorial: More housing density on the tony North Shore remains elusive in practice	Chicago Tribune
Editorial: Chicago's looming property tax hit looks like it will strike lower-income neighborhoods hardest	Chicago Tribune
WATCH YOUR STEP!; City seeks public's input on accessible streets and sidewalks	The Woodstock Independent
Transportation plan casts wide net for zero emissions in Chicago region	Chicago Tribune
Republican State Sen. Seth Lewis says he's exploring options to save and improve transit that align with his views on fiscal responsibility	StreetsBlog Chicago
Open Communities hosts Walk the Redline event ahead of Envision Evanston 2045 vote	The Daily Northwestern
Trump Announces Chicago ICE Operation	Loyola Phoenix
Why Chicago Is the Best Location for Warehouse Storage in the Midwest	The Daily Journal
Unfurling Like a Rose: The Life and Times of Dr. Yaoundé Olu	Sixty Inches From Center
Final Phase of North Aurora Road Improvement Project Begins Sept. 29	Positively Naperville
From course project to \$4.2M startup: The accidental entrepreneur making sidewalks accessible nationwide	The Grainger College of Engineering (UIUC)
Work starts next week on final phase of North Aurora Road improvements, bridge	Naperville Sun
Scaled-Back South Side housing ordinance passes City Council as Obama Presidential Center opening nears	Hyde Park Herald

[Denise Barreto: Where are the Black voices in the transit debate?](#)

Chicago Tribune