

MEMORANDUM

To: CMAP Board

From: The Century Plan project team

Date: March 11, 2026

Subject: The Century Plan update

Action Requested: Information

As revealed in the [State of the Region report](#), northeastern Illinois is in a position of strength, with strong economy bolstered by a robust transportation infrastructure and critical natural resources that allow us to sustain our economy. However, current trends indicate that there are future challenges that may hinder the region's ability to reach its full potential. Our economy is growing more slowly than our peers, job growth in our most competitive sectors has been limited, and the cost of living has generally outpaced wages.

Through [The Century Plan](#), CMAP will continue to facilitate conversations across the region to develop a collective understanding of these challenges, coalesce around the shared commitments needed to respond to these trends, and orient ourselves toward a shared vision for the future.

To continue the dialogue on regional trends and opportunities for collaboration The Century Plan can enable, the CMAP Board will hear from an engaging panel on current economic development and employer needs, future development trends, and opportunities for regional action.

Cathriona Fey, Illinois Economic Development Corporation, **Doug Pryor**, Will County Center for Economic Development, and **Rachel Barker**, Nonresident Fellow, Brookings Metro will join the CMAP Board meeting to discuss how current economic trends influence the mix of workforce, site readiness, infrastructure, and other needs required to be competitive in this market, and how local actions today can best position the region for a more prosperous future.

ACTION REQUESTED: Information