

MEMORANDUM

To: CMAP Board

From: CMAP Staff

Date: April 12, 2023

Subject: State of the Region 2023: Public Opinion Survey, Regional Excellence Awards

Action Requested: Information

CMAP's second State of the Region is a series of events in spring 2023 that kicked off with the March 30 release of the new public opinion survey and announcement of the 2023 Regional Excellence Awards. CMAP will take the State of the Region news and perspective into the region in collaboration with regional partners, beginning with a forum with McHenry County on April 5, 2023.

The **2023 public opinion survey** reveals residents' attitudes toward key quality-of-life issues — including transportation, the economy, and climate — and identifies successes and challenges across the region.

CMAP conducted the survey to better understand the priorities and experiences of community members and see how ON TO 2050 can address the most pressing issues.

The 2023 survey found that residents value many of the region's assets, particularly access to open space, transportation, and good jobs. But they are increasingly concerned about the cost of housing, personal finances, and other economic issues.

Residents also showed support for more equitable transportation investments, regional collaboration, and local action on climate change.

The **2023 Regional Excellence Awards** recognize and celebrate partners' achievements and exceptional work. CMAP received 36 nominations across four categories and a regional, multidisciplinary jury deliberated the nominations. Executive Director Aleman will present the awards in person to each of the award winners over the next several weeks.

The 2023 winners are:

Equity with Impact	Greater Auburn-Gresham Development Corporation and Milhouse Engineering and Construction for the Auburn Gresham Healthy Lifestyles Hub
Equity with Impact	City of Aurora and Fox Valley Developers for the Bloomhaven Development (Copley Hospital redevelopment)
Partners for Progress	Pace Suburban Bus for its Project Zero, zero emissions commitment
Partners for Progress	Regional Transit Authority for its Transit is the Answer strategic plan
Regional Resilience	Village of Oak Park for its Climate Ready Oak Park climate action plan
Visionary Leader	George Van Dusen , Mayor of Skokie
Visionary Leader	Peter Wallers , Engineering Enterprises, Inc.

CMAP held its first State of the Region event in October 2021, featuring Executive Director Erin Aleman’s state of the region address, keynote speaker Dr. Suzette McKinney, the results of a regional public opinion survey, and the winners of the Regional Excellence Awards. The 2021 State of the Region was a 90-minute virtual event.