



**MPO POLICY COMMITTEE**

**MEETING MINUTES - FINAL**

Wednesday, October 8, 2025

9:00 AM

**Cook County Conference Room  
433 West Van Buren Street, Suite 450  
Chicago, IL 60607**

Members of the public who attend in-person can pre-register for a visitor's pass at [info@cmap.illinois.gov](mailto:info@cmap.illinois.gov) until October 7 at 4:00 p.m. or should plan to arrive early to check-in with the building's information desk for access.

You can also join from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82410801918?pwd=LBh63IWIDzQ4linAzh4g2hlxfXbpCK.1>

Conference Call number: 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 824 1080 1918 Passcode: 617525

CMAF provides the opportunity for public comment. Individuals are encouraged to submit comment by email to [info@cmap.illinois.gov](mailto:info@cmap.illinois.gov) at least 24 hours before the meeting. A record of all written public comments will be maintained and made publicly available.

The total cumulative time for public comment is limited to 15 minutes, unless determined otherwise by the Chair. Public comment is limited to three minutes per person unless the Chair designates a longer or shorter time period. Public comments will be invited in this order: Comments from in person attendees submitted ahead of time; comments from in-person attendees not previously submitted; comments from virtual attendees submitted ahead of time; and comments from virtual attendees not previously submitted.

To review CMAF's public participation policy, please visit <https://www.cmap.illinois.gov/committees>.

If you require a reasonable accommodation or language interpretation services to attend or join the meeting, please contact CMAF at least five days before the meeting by email ([info@cmap.illinois.gov](mailto:info@cmap.illinois.gov)) or phone (312-454-0400).

## 1.0 Call to Order and Introductions

CMAP Board

Chair Bennett called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m.

**Present:** Gerald Bennett, Matthew Brolley, Jada Curry, Paul Hoefert, Nina Idemudia, John Noak, Richard Reinbold, Joanna Ruiz, Carolyn Schofield, Anne Sheahan, Matthew Walsh and Jung Yoon

**Absent:** Frank Beal, Gary Grasso and Nancy Rotering

**Non-Voting:** Kouros Mohammadian and Leanne Redden

Noting a physical quorum of the Board, Erin Aleman reported a request was received from Kouros Mohammadian to attend the meeting virtually in compliance with the Open Meets Act. A vote is needed to approve his virtual attendance.

*A motion was made by Member John Noak, seconded by Member Anne Sheahan, to permit Member Kouros Mohammadian to participate in the meeting in accordance with Open Meetings Act requirements. The motion carried by the following vote:*

**Aye:** Gerald Bennett, Matthew Brolley, Paul Hoefert, Nina Idemudia, John Noak, Richard Reinbold, Joanna Ruiz, Anne Sheahan and Jung Yoon

**Absent:** Frank Beal, Jada Curry, Gary Grasso, Nancy Rotering, Carolyn Schofield and Matthew Walsh

**Non-Voting:** Kouros Mohammadian and Leanne Redden

MPO Policy Committee

Chair Biagi called the meeting of the MPO Policy Committee to order at 9:08 a.m.

**Present:** CDOT Representative, CMAP Representative 1, CMAP Representative 2, CoM Representative, Cook Co Representative, CTA Representative, DuPage Co Representative, IDOT Representative, Kane Co Representative, Kendall Co Representative, Lake Co Representative, McHenry Co Representative, Metra Representative, Pace Representative, RTA Representative and Tollway Representative

**Absent:** Will Co Representative

**Non-Voting:** Class I Railroads Representative

**Absent (NV):** FHWA Representative and FTA Representative

Secretary Gia Biagi served as IDOT Representative, Craig Turner served as CDOT Representative, John Noak served as CMAP Representative 1, Matt Brolley served as CMAP Representative 2, Molly Poppe served as CTA Representative, Jennifer Sis Killen served as Cook Co Representative, Jeff Schielke served as CoM Representative, Steve Travia served as DuPage Co Representative, Cassandra Rouse served as Tollway Representative, Tom Rickert served as Kane Co Representative, Scott Gengler served as Kendall Co Representative, Kevin Carrier served as Lake Co Representative, Peter Austin served as McHenry Co Representative, Jim Derwinski served as Metra Representative, Erik Llewellyn served as Pace Representative, Leanne Redden served as RTA Representative, and Thomas Evenson served as Class I Railroads Representative.

Noting a physical quorum of the MPO Policy Committee, Erin Aleman reported a request was received from Pace Representative Erik Llewellyn to attend the meeting virtually in compliance with the Open Meets Act. A vote is needed to approve his virtual attendance.

*A motion was made by Member John Noak, seconded by Member Jennifer Sis Killen, to permit Member Erik Llewellyn to participate in the meeting in accordance with Open Meetings Act requirements. The motion carried by the following vote:*

**Aye:** CDOT Representative, CMAP Representative 1, CMAP Representative 2, CoM Representative, Cook Co Representative, CTA Representative, DuPage Co Representative, IDOT Representative, Kane Co Representative, Kendall Co Representative, Lake Co Representative, McHenry Co Representative, Metra Representative, Pace Representative, RTA Representative and Tollway Representative

**Absent:** Will Co Representative

**Non-Voting:** Class I Railroads Representative

**Absent (NV):** FHWA Representative and FTA Representative

**Staff present:** Laurent Ahiablame, Bill Barnes, Alex Beata, Vas Boykovskyy, Michael Brown, Teri Dixon, Austen Edwards, Elizabeth Ginsberg, Jane Grover, Kasia Hart, Maren Lutterbach, Tony Manno, Stephane Phifer, Julie Reschke, Kyle Schulz, Elizabeth Scott, Jennie Vana, Blanca Vela-Schneider, Claire Williams

**Others present:** Garland Armstrong, Marielle Brown, Eric Czarnota, Rithvika Dara, Dawn Dina, Jackie Forbes, Dan Forbush, Brandon Geber, Gary Grasso, Danielle Hamer, Laura Hatt, Craig Heither, Jennifer Henry, Aubrey Hills, Neil James, George Kandathil, Mike Klemens, Gretchen Klock, David Kovarik, David Kralik, Heidi Lichtenberger, Kevin O'Malley, Mary Nicol, Matt Pasquini, George Perkins, Suzette Quintell, Leslie Raver, Karyn Robles, Joanne Rooney, Alexandra Rosander, Pramiti Singh, Joe Surdam, Megan Swanson, Steve Travia, Kayla Walsh

(CMAP Board Member Matt Walsh arrived at 9:09 a.m.)

## **2.0 Agenda Changes and Announcements**

There were no changes to the agenda.

### **2.01 Executive director's report**

**[25-302](#)**

**Attachments:** [Memo - Executive director report](#)

Erin Aleman, Executive Director, reiterated the welcome to Acting Commissioner Turner, who introduced himself to the Board and MPO Policy Committee.

(CMAP Board Member Jada Curry arrived at 9:11 a.m.)

Executive Director Aleman provided an update on recent CMAP activities, including meetings with state and local leaders regarding transit legislation and the PART (Plan of Action for Regional Transit) report. She noted that the Regional Transit Authority (RTA) has revised its projected 2026 fiscal cliff from approximately \$770 million to \$200 million, reflecting stronger sales tax revenue, planned fare increases, and the use of reserve funds.

RTA Executive Director Leanne Redden distributed a two-page summary outlining the updated fiscal projections, noting that while the 2026 gap has narrowed, a deficit of about \$200 million remains, rising again to nearly \$800 million in 2027. Additional information is available on the RTA website, and RTA staff are available to discuss the details further with members.

Executive Director Aleman announced that CMAP will soon release an updated PART policy report, offering revised cost and revenue projections to illustrate the region's transit fiscal outlook under multiple scenarios. CMAP's objective is to inform policymakers of the trade-offs associated with unsustainable transit funding. An op-ed on this topic will be published in Crain's Chicago Business.

Regarding the ongoing federal government shutdown, the Executive Director reported limited immediate impacts on transportation due to the current five-year capital bill (expiring October 2026) but noted potential project processing delays. She also met with members of Illinois' congressional delegation over the summer to discuss federal transportation priorities, with shared interest in maintaining and protecting existing infrastructure amid growing needs and inflationary pressures.

Executive Director Aleman noted that CMAP's Community Data Snapshots have been updated and are available for local engagement.

Last week, the Executive Director joined Governor Pritzker and Secretary Biagi for the announcement of the MYP (Multi Year Program). Secretary Biagi highlighted that the \$50 billion, six-year MYP surpasses those of Texas and California. The program includes \$400 million dedicated to 230 local grants out of \$5 billion in total requests, underscoring the region's significant infrastructure needs. Secretary Biagi thanked CMAP and partners for their continued collaboration to advance regional transportation priorities.

*The executive director's report was received and filed.*

### 3.0 Approval of Minutes

#### 3.01 MPO Policy Committee meeting minutes from June 12, 2025

[25-303](#)

**Attachments:** [MPO Policy Committee 06.12.2025 Minutes](#)

*MPO Policy Committee*

*A motion was made by Lake Co Representative Kevin Carrier, seconded by Cook Co Representative Jennifer Sis Killen, to approve the June 12, 2025 MPO Policy Committee meeting minutes. Motion carried by the following vote:*

**Aye:** CDOT Representative, CMAP Representative 1, CMAP Representative 2, CoM Representative, Cook Co Representative, CTA Representative, DuPage Co Representative, IDOT Representative, Kane Co Representative, Kendall Co Representative, Lake Co Representative, McHenry Co Representative, Metra Representative, Pace Representative, RTA Representative and Tollway Representative

**Absent:** Will Co Representative

**Non-Voting:** Class I Railroads Representative

**Absent (NV):** FHWA Representative and FTA Representative

## CONSENT AGENDA

### 3.02 CMAP Board minutes from September 10, 2025

[25-304](#)

**Attachments:** [CMAP Board 09.10.25 Minutes](#)

*CMAP Board*

*A motion was made by Member John Noak, seconded by Member Anne Sheehan, to approve the September 10, 2025 CMAP Board meeting minutes. Motion carried by the following vote:*

*Aye: Gerald Bennett, Matthew Brolley, Jada Curry, Paul Hofert, Nina Idemudia, John Noak, Richard Reinbold, Joanna Ruiz and Carolyn Schofield, Anne Sheahan, Matthew Walsh, Jung Yoon*

*Absent: Frank Beal, Gary Grasso, Nancy Rotering*

*Non-Voting: Kouros Mohammadian, Leanne Redden*

*Not Present: Carolyn Schofield*

## REGULAR AGENDA

### 4.0 Other Items for Approval

#### 4.01 Approval of the MPO Policy Committee meeting schedule for 2026

[25-305](#)

**Attachments:** [Memo - MPO Policy Committee 2026 meeting dates](#)

*MPO Policy Committee*

*A motion was made by Illinois Tollway Representative Cassaundra Rouse, seconded by Metra Representative Jim Derwinski, to approve the MPO Policy Committee meeting schedule for 2026. The motion carried by the following vote:*

**Aye:** CDOT Representative, CMAP Representative 1, CMAP Representative 2, CoM Representative, Cook Co Representative, CTA Representative, DuPage Co Representative, IDOT Representative, Kane Co Representative, Kendall Co Representative, Lake Co Representative, McHenry Co Representative, Metra Representative, Pace Representative, RTA Representative and Tollway Representative

**Absent:** Will Co Representative

**Non-Voting:** Class I Railroads Representative

**Absent (NV):** FHWA Representative and FTA Representative

#### 4.02 Election of MPO Policy Committee Vice-Chair

[25-306](#)

**Attachments:** [Memo - Nomination of Vice-Chair](#)

Aimee Lee, Deputy of Research, Analysis, and Programming, reported that the MPO Policy Nominating Committee is recommending the reelection of Cassaundra Rouse to serve as the Vice-Chair of the MPO Policy Committee for calendar year 2026.

*MPO Policy Committee*

*A motion was made by CMAP Representative 1 John Noak, seconded by RTA Representative Leanne Redden, to reelect Tollway Representative Cassaundra Rouse as Vice Chair of the MPO Policy Committee for calendar year 2026. The motion carried by the following vote:*

**Aye:** CDOT Representative, CMAP Representative 1, CMAP Representative 2, CoM Representative, Cook Co Representative, CTA Representative, DuPage Co Representative, IDOT Representative, Kane Co Representative, Kendall Co Representative, Lake Co Representative, McHenry Co Representative, Metra Representative, Pace Representative, RTA Representative and Tollway Representative

**Absent:** Will Co Representative

**Non-Voting:** Class I Railroads Representative

**Absent (NV):** FHWA Representative and FTA Representative

## 5.0 CMAP Announcements

### 5.01 CMAP Board report

[25-307](#)

Leanne Redden, RTA Representative, reported that the CMAP Board did not meet in July or August. At their September 10, 2025 meeting, the Board approved an amendment to the FY26 budget reflecting an additional \$1.2 million in IDOT revenue for the Unified Work Program, \$2 million in revenue from the Illinois General Assembly's FY26 budget appropriation, funded through the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and \$300,000 in revenue from Schreiber Philanthropy, as well as corresponding expense adjustments to reflect \$2.3 million in consultant support (professional services) to complete the work for the Regional Planning Act and Schreiber Philanthropy grants. The CMAP Board also received an update on the development of the Century Plan.

*The CMAP Board report was presented.*

### 5.02 Council of Mayors' Executive Committee report

[25-308](#)

Jeff Schielke, CoM Representative, reported the Council of Mayors' Executive Committee met on September 16, 2025. The committee welcomed new members, the mayors of Rolling Meadows, Kenilworth, Glencoe, and Hoffman Estates. The focus of the meeting was E-commerce trends and the regional freight landscape, larger trends affecting freight, how goods move through the region, and implications for municipalities. The freight sector is significant for northeastern Illinois, as it accounts for over 200,000 jobs and \$36.5 billion in regional gross domestic product (GDP) and affects all the municipalities that freight moves through. As part of its freight assessment, CMAP is working to develop a model ordinance for municipalities that will address truck weights and routing, which will be shared when ready.

*The Council of Mayors' Executive Committee report was presented.*

## 6.0 Information Items

### 6.01 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) update

[25-309](#)

**Attachments:** [Regional Transportation Plan \(RTP\) update](#)

Ryan Thompto, Principal Policy Analyst; Julie Reschke, Senior Policy Analyst; and Elizabeth Ginsberg, Senior Policy Analyst provided an update on the development of the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), which builds on the ON TO 2050 Plan.

The RTP focuses on three guiding questions: the desired future transportation system, the challenges and opportunities to achieve it, and the strategies to get there. The plan will be fiscally constrained and presented for adoption at the joint CMAP Board and MPO Policy Committee meeting in 2026.

A central principle of the plan is prioritized investment, using data, analysis, and public input to guide limited resources toward projects with the greatest impact through a transparent,

performance-based approach.

(CMAP Board Member Carolyn Schofield arrived at 9:30 a.m.)

Julie Reschke summarized recent outreach across all seven counties, which engaged approximately 36,000 residents through community events, digital channels, and targeted efforts, generating more than 1,500 questionnaire responses. Key themes included concerns about vehicle speeding, congestion, and transit access; strong support for transit, walking, and biking infrastructure; and interest in investments that promote safety, economic vitality, environmental protection, and climate resilience. This input will inform ongoing strategy development.

Elizabeth Ginsberg outlined the RTP's financial plan, which assesses the revenues and expenditures required to operate, maintain, and expand the transportation system. She emphasized that the plan serves as a **policy framework**, not a budget, guiding investment priorities within fiscal realities.

Baseline revenue sources include:

- **Federal:** formula and competitive programs;
- **State:** capital funds and dedicated fees such as the motor fuel tax and vehicle registration;
- **Local:** RTA sales tax and other transportation-dedicated local revenues; and
- **System-generated:** transit fares and tolls.

Federal revenues are projected to decline due to changing reauthorization assumptions, while state and local revenues remain stable. State policy actions, such as Rebuild Illinois (2019) and the Leveling the Playing Field for Illinois Retail Act (2021), have bolstered revenue streams but face long-term challenges as vehicle efficiency rises and the sales tax base remains narrow.

Ginsberg noted that reduced transit ridership continues to impact fiscal health and may not return to pre-pandemic levels, prompting the need to rethink funding models.

CMAP and regional partners have advanced several policy initiatives to strengthen future revenues, including the Modernizing Illinois' Sales Tax report and an upcoming white paper on implementing a road usage charge. Five reasonably expected revenue sources are being analyzed:

1. Sales tax modernization (expanding to consumer services),
2. A regional revenue source (e.g., rideshare tax or vehicle surcharge),
3. Freight delivery fee,
4. Tolling added during major highway reconstructions, and
5. Transitioning from the motor fuel tax to a road usage charge.

CMAP forecasts a \$524 billion fiscal constraint over the 24-year plan horizon, comparable to ON TO 2050, with reasonably expected revenues comprising 13% of the total, up from 7% previously.

Expenditures are grouped into four categories: operating and maintaining the system, improving performance, enhancing transit service, and adding capacity through regional capital projects. Rising construction costs, aging infrastructure, and disinvestment in some communities continue to drive funding needs.

Additionally, Ryan Thompto presented a summary of the Draft Regional Capital Projects Benefits

Report, which evaluates 137 major transportation investments totaling more than \$80 billion through 2050. The projects encompass highway reconstruction, arterial upgrades, freight improvements, transit expansions, multimodal corridors, and investments that enhance safety, resilience, and reliability.

Of the 137 projects, 23 have committed funding and will be included in the fiscally constrained plan. The remaining 114 projects were assessed using regional performance measures focused on accessibility, reliability, safety, economic competitiveness, and system preservation.

The draft report, available online, remains under review as CMAP continues to refine project cost, benefit, and performance data in coordination with implementation partners.

The draft fiscal constraint indicates that, even with the inclusion of new and innovative revenue sources - such as mileage-based user fees, expanded tolling, and freight fees - the region still faces a significant funding shortfall to preserve, modernize, and enhance its transportation system. This gap underscores one of northeastern Illinois' greatest challenges: maintaining and upgrading its aging infrastructure to meet future mobility needs will require sustained investment and regional collaboration.

CMAP will refine financial assumptions, update revenue and expenditure forecasts, and conduct a risk assessment to test sensitivity to inflation, economic conditions, and implementation timing. Staff will also meet with project sponsors to review evaluations, confirm assumptions, and identify priorities. The final RCP Benefits Report and prioritized project list will be presented to the Board and MPO Policy Committee in early 2026.

In response to questions from Board members, Thompto confirmed that priority programs will be reflected in the final plan in coordination with implementing partners and informed through collaborative discussions with the Transportation Committee, MPO Policy Committee, and CMAP Board.

*The Regional Transportation Plan update was presented.*

## **7.0 Other Business**

Secretary Biagi thanked McHenry Co Representative Peter Austin, who will be retiring at the end of the year, for his service.

There was no other business before the MPO Policy Committee or CMAP Board.

## **8.0 Public Comment**

This is an opportunity for comments from members of the audience.

Garland Armstrong, former Illinois resident, encouraged the Board and MPO Policy Committee to connect with different communities on ADA policies so that the policies match the needs of the people they address. He furthermore asked about refunds from recycling efforts.

## **9.0 Next Meeting**

The CMAP Board is scheduled to meet on Wednesday, November 12, 2025.

The MPO Policy Committee is scheduled to meet on Thursday, January 8, 2026.

## 10.0 Adjournment

CMAP Board

*A motion was made by John Noak, seconded by Richard Reinbold, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried by the following vote:*

**Aye:** Gerald Bennett, Matthew Brolley, Jada Curry, Paul Hoefert, Nina Idemudia, John Noak, Richard Reinbold, Joanna Ruiz, Carolyn Schofield, Anne Sheahan, Matthew Walsh and Jung Yoon

**Absent:** Frank Beal, Gary Grasso and Nancy Rotering

**Non-Voting:** Kouros Mohammadian and Leanne Redden

The CMAP Board was adjourned at 10:01 a.m.

*MPO Policy Committee*

*A motion was made by Metra Representative Jim Derwinski, seconded by Lake Co Representative Kevin Carrier, to adjourn the MPO Policy Committee meeting. The motion carried by the following vote:*

**Aye:** CDOT Representative, CMAP Representative 1, CMAP Representative 2, CoM Representative, Cook Co Representative, CTA Representative, DuPage Co Representative, IDOT Representative, Kane Co Representative, Kendall Co Representative, Lake Co Representative, McHenry Co Representative, Metra Representative, Pace Representative, RTA Representative and Tollway Representative

**Absent:** Will Co Representative

**Non-Voting:** Class I Railroads Representative

**Absent (NV):** FHWA Representative and FTA Representative

The MPO Policy Committee was adjourned at 10:02 a.m.

**Immediately following the adjournment of the meeting, the CMAP Board and MPO Policy Committee entered into a workshop about future scenario planning in the context of the Century Plan project.**

Minutes prepared by Maren Lutterbach