

MEMORANDUM

To: CMAP Board

From: Erin Aleman, Executive Director

Date: October 29, 2025

Subject: Update on The Century Plan

Action Requested: Information

The November 4th State of the Region event brought together nearly 1,000 people, including state officials, mayors, and county board chairs, along with transportation, business, and civic stakeholders, to launch The Century Plan — a shared, overarching vision for the seven-county region that will guide policies for transportation, the environment, and the economy for decades into the future.

CMAP hosted this first-of-its-kind gathering to inspire and catalyze a regional initiative to shape the future. We also celebrated CMAP's 20th anniversary and two decades of regional planning progress.

The event featured [data trends that will help drive conversations](#) around key quality of life issues, including housing and the economy, flooding and transportation, the region's aging population, and more. There were also visual exhibits illustrating [CMAP's history and milestones](#). Thanks to [generous sponsors](#), guests enjoyed food, entertainment, and experiences reflective of the region. View [news release](#).

We ignited new connections across northeastern Illinois and invited the region to continue to engage with us around regional trends, shared priorities, and opportunities for continued collaboration. Thank you to Board members for your support in making the event a success.

The CMAP Board and MPO Policy Committee provided important insights during the October 8th scenario planning workshop. The consultant team provided an overview of the foresight scenario planning process they are conducting as part of The Century Plan and facilitated an engagement activity to gauge members' concerns and aspirations for the future.

Key themes included uncertainty around funding, infrastructure, and affordability, as well as hopefulness around growing regional collaboration, the region's transportation system, and

economic diversity. We will use these insights to inform key regional shifts and shape ongoing discussions about the future challenges to be addressed by The Century Plan.

In 2026, engagement on The Century Plan will primarily follow two paths. First, CMAP will work with each Council of Government to provide a look at how regional trends are manifesting at a local level, and how these findings align with priorities already identified in recent local and subregional plans. Second, CMAP will host a series of public forums across the region to elevate and explore important questions about the future development of northeastern Illinois. These events will be coupled with exciting site visits, walking tours, demonstrations, and other opportunities to experience public issues and innovations firsthand with our local partners. CMAP board members are invited to play an active role in this engagement, participating in discussions and tours, and offering perspective on future challenges and opportunities that will depend on regional coordination.

By listening to regional leaders and pairing their insights with CMAP's trend and strategic foresight analysis, The Century Plan will look ahead with clarity and ambition—identifying where the region must focus, what challenges we must tackle together, and what commitments will drive lasting progress.