



MEMORANDUM

To: Executive Committee

From: Erin Aleman, Executive Director

Date: March 1, 2024

Subject: Executive Director 5-Year Accomplishments (2019-2024)

Action Requested: Information

Reflecting on the last five years since joining CMAP as its executive director, I'm filled with pride on our successes, achieved in partnership with the CMAP Board, MPO Policy Committee, and our many partners.

From creating a first-of-its-kind regional economic partnership, developing solutions to transform the region's transit system and building consensus among the region's leaders on the highest-priority transportation projects, together, we've made a profound and positive impact. As a result, we are stronger and more resilient today than we were five years ago.

I'm especially proud of CMAP's role as a regional leader and influencer. We've provided tremendous value to the region through **collaboration and convening** evident by government and business leaders from all levels turning to us to convene and collaborate to influence policies and solve problems.

A few examples include:

- **COVID convenings:** At the onset of the pandemic, responding to a collective call to action from the seven county board chairs and the City of Chicago, we led coordination efforts with regional leaders producing guiding principles for **One Regional Voice: COVID-19 Stimulus and Relief Response** addressing transportation and economic challenges and responses.
- **Community Alliance for Regional Equity:** CMAP is connecting and collaborating with community-based organizations to advance equity and strengthen relationships through our new and innovative Community Alliance for Regional Equity (or CARE) program.
- **Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act convenings:** Federal leaders called on CMAP to convene regional stakeholders and deliver a regional consensus list of transportation priorities following the passage of the infrastructure bill. And we delivered, working with our partners to achieve consensus on our region's highest-priority projects.

- **Americans with Disabilities Act compliance:** Recognizing a need to gain ADA compliance across the region (only a handful of our communities are in compliance), CMAP made it a priority to help communities comply through in-person trainings and other resources including guidance for ADA self-evaluation and design standards, transition plans, and the role of ADA coordinators.
- **Greater Chicagoland Economic Partnership:** Starting in 2021, CMAP convened a Regional Task Force at the request of the region's seven County Board Chairs and the City of Chicago to support collaboration and action related to regional workforce, economic development, and tourism initiatives. Those discussions with the seven counties, their economic development organizations and the City of Chicago continued into 2022, supported by a grant from the Searle Funds at The Chicago Community Trust. This work led to the launch and implementation of the Greater Chicagoland Economic Partnership in 2023.
- **Safe Travel for All Roadmap:** Roadway deaths have risen sharply since COVID-19, and an increasing number of those killed are people walking or riding a bike — our most vulnerable travelers. To address this alarming safety crisis, the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) received a \$5 million grant to launch the Safe Travel for All Roadmap (STAR) program, which provides a framework for safety research and programs to make northeastern Illinois safer for all travelers.
- **Plan of Action for Regional Transit:** We responded and delivered on the State mandate to develop bold options to address our transit system's looming fiscal cliff and make transit work better for everyone.

I'm also proud of our efforts to strengthen CMAP's budget and finances, and our strategic program management resulting in a five-year strategic plan and annual work plans, as well as investments in our highly-skilled, passionate team and work culture.

The CMAP team is considered highly credible and respected transportation experts, data analysts, thought leaders, planners, policy influencers, collaborators and consensus builders. We've earned a revered reputation for advancing sound policy, driving innovative solutions and leading transformational change.

At the March 13 Executive Committee meeting, I will share some of our success over the last five years for your reference as you consider my contract renewal.

Thank you for the honor to serve this region.

In gratitude,

Erin

Attachments: [February 14, 2024 Executive Committee Agenda](#)
Item 7.02: [Schedule for Executive Director contract renewal and annual evaluation](#)