



MEMORANDUM

To: MPO Policy Committee

From: Elizabeth Scott, Principal

Date: March 12, 2026

Subject: NITA Act overview

Action Requested: Information

On December 16, 2025, Governor Pritzker signed into law [P.A. 104-0457](#), also referred to as the Northern Illinois Transit Authority (NITA) Act. The bill creates a new regional authority to oversee regional transit capital and operating functions, conduct regional service planning and establish regional service standards, institute an integrated fare system, and more. The law also requires transit agencies to enact several measures to improve safety and the user experience, including the creation of a NITA law enforcement task force and the establishment of a new transit ambassadors program.

In addition to these reforms, P.A. 104-0457 also enacts nearly \$1.5 billion annually in new capital and operating funding for transit. These new funds will allow the region to address the structural budget deficit, pay for the new service improvements described above, and allow NITA to improve service frequency and reliability across the system. Effective stewardship of these new resources will be critical to NITA and the region's success.

The law has an effective date of June 1, 2026, and extensive work lies ahead to stand up a new regional agency that is able to enact these improvements. CMAP will provide an overview of the law, including upcoming statutory deadlines, requirements for NITA board appointments, and key new responsibilities of the regional agency.

ACTION REQUESTED: Information