



Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

Agenda Item 2.01

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MEMORANDUM

To: CMAP Board
From: Erin Aleman, Executive Director
Date: February 2026
Subject: Executive Director's report
Action Requested: Information

Dear Board Members,

This report provides an update ahead of our February meeting with the goal of greater transparency to CMAP's work and to supplement the agenda.

Should you have questions regarding this report, please feel free to reach out to me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Erin Aleman', is positioned above the printed name.

Erin Aleman

Recertification

In January, CMAP met with representatives from FHWA and FTA for our four-year certification review of our metropolitan transportation planning process to make sure we are meeting federal standards for Transportation Management Areas. Our team members did an excellent job talking about our work and answering questions from our federal partners. We can expect a report with recommendations in the coming months and will provide an update to the Board at that time.

As part of this process, they have asked us [to collect public feedback regarding the transportation planning process and interactions with CMAP](#). Comments will be accepted through February 10.

My Daily Travel Phase One data

CMAP has published the [Phase One dataset](#) from its [My Daily Travel household survey](#), marking a major milestone in a multi-year effort to better understand how northeastern Illinois residents move through the region.

Between September 2024 and June 2025, the survey collected detailed travel behavior data from more than 3,500 households across Cook, DuPage, Kane, Kendall, Lake, McHenry, and Will counties. The dataset provides critical insight into daily travel patterns, mode choice, telework, transit use, and barriers to travel — and will inform CMAP's travel demand modeling, policy analysis, and long-range transportation planning efforts, including the development of the next Regional Transportation Plan

Phase two of the survey is expected to begin in late spring. This is a three-phase effort designed to track how travel behavior continues to evolve post-pandemic.

Housing information and resources

CMAP has new housing information and resources available.

[StoryMap: the role of housing rehabilitation Opens in a new tab](#) describes the state of existing housing types, regional demographics, and trends like tenure, affordability, and values. By understanding these challenges and opportunities for housing rehabilitation programs, communities can work toward ensuring that all residents have access to safe and sustainable housing.

[Housing rehab resources](#) help stakeholders understand the resources at their disposal, CMAP compiled a list of available housing programs, funding sources, and regional partners. The spreadsheet provides both regionwide and county-specific resources, with details on eligibility requirements and contact information.

New policy briefs support development of the 2026 Regional Transportation Plan

As CMAP continues developing the region's next long-range transportation blueprint, the agency has a new series of policy briefs to inform and support the [2026 Regional Transportation Plan \(RTP\)](#). These briefs draw on national best practices, peer examples, and technical expertise to explore complex and evolving transportation topics that will shape future investments, policies, and priorities across northeastern Illinois.

Together, the policy briefs offer considerations to inform discussions and decision-making as the RTP advances toward adoption in October 2026.

Asset management

Maintaining the region's existing transportation system is a core priority of CMAP's long-range planning. This brief examines the state of asset management across highways, transit, and other multimodal infrastructure in northeastern Illinois. It reviews federal requirements, regional practices, and emerging trends, while highlighting the importance of stable funding, lifecycle planning, and data-informed decision-making. The brief also explores how asset management supports broader goals related to safety, resilience, and fiscal stewardship. [Read the Asset Management Policy Brief](#)

Emerging technologies

Rapid technological change continues to influence how people and goods move throughout the region. This policy brief explores a range of emerging technologies with implications for transportation planning, including electric vehicles, intelligent transportation systems, connected and autonomous vehicles, unmanned aircraft systems, cybersecurity, and artificial intelligence. The brief outlines current trends, risks, and opportunities, with an emphasis on how CMAP and regional partners can responsibly plan for adoption while supporting safety, equity, and sustainability. [Read the Emerging Technologies Policy Brief](#)

Intercity rail and bus

Intercity rail and bus services play a vital role in connecting northeastern Illinois to the Midwest and the nation. This brief examines the current intercity rail and bus systems serving the region and identifies emerging challenges and opportunities, such as capacity constraints, terminal access, and coordinated planning. [Read the Intercity Rail and Bus Policy Brief](#)

Innovative finance and project delivery

This brief explores alternative project delivery and financing strategies available in Illinois, including design-build, construction manager-general contractor, public-private partnerships, and value capture. It provides an overview of statutory authority, benefits and challenges, and real-world examples to help agencies consider how these tools can accelerate delivery, manage risk, and maximize public investment. [Read the Innovative Finance and Project Delivery](#)

Free, half-day virtual seminar: Beyond the Basics Stormwater Conference

This year's [Beyond the Basics Stormwater Conference](#) will delve into innovative strategies for managing stormwater in a variable climate. As communities face the multifaceted impacts of climate variability, urbanization, more frequent and intense storms, and prolonged drought, this conference will equip professionals with the knowledge to design resilient, forward-thinking stormwater infrastructure.

The conference highlights strategies for managing stormwater in a variable climate. It is targeted at stormwater professionals and decision-makers.

Expert speakers including CMAP's Kelsey Pudlock and Kate Evasic will share updates on tools for assessing and mitigating emerging risks, explore the latest technological advancements through real-world case studies, and discuss actionable solutions to shaping local and regional stormwater management.

This free, half-day virtual seminar is sponsored by DuPage County Stormwater Management.

[Registration is required](#) to secure your place in shaping the future of resilient stormwater systems.

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