



Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

Agenda Item 2.01

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MEMORANDUM

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

Dear Board Members,

This report provides an update ahead of our January 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

2025 CMAP Annual Report

At your January meeting, we will present CMAP's 2025 annual report that highlights our achievements from the past year. And what a year it was!

An [electronic version](#) is available for your review.

Transit Act

Governor Pritzker signed the Northern Illinois Transit Authority (NITA) in December advancing the transformative legislation that delivers on the strong vision put forward in CMAP's Plan of Action for Regional Transit.

We will provide more information at your meeting under the Legislative Update.

Recertification

CMAP will undergo its federal certification review at the end of January, a required review that occurs every four years to ensure our metropolitan transportation planning process meets federal standards for Transportation Management Areas. We are prepared to host our partners from FHWA and FTA for the onsite visit and welcome the opportunity to demonstrate the strength, transparency, and collaboration that underpin our regional planning work.

There will also be an opportunity for the public to provide feedback regarding the transportation planning process and interactions with CMAP. Comments will be accepted from January 13 through February 10. Once the comment period begins, the short form will be linked on CMAP's [federal certification page](#). If you are unable to send feedback through the form, we can also provide contact information for our federal agency certification partners.

County safety action plans

Our work leading the Safe Travel for All regionwide safety initiative continues, building on the implementation of our county safety action plans this committee adopted last year.

CMAP, in partnership with the DuPage Division of Transportation, has released a [recorded webinar](#) focused on funding traffic safety improvements.

While the webinar centers on DuPage County, it also provides general funding guidance that is relevant to communities across the region with a safety action plan. It walks through federal, state, and regional funding sources and addresses key questions like project eligibility and what makes a strong application.

Speaking of strong applications, McHenry County was awarded a Safe Streets and Roads for All implementation grant from USDOT of over \$2 million to construct a roundabout at a high crash location. The Village of Evergreen Park was awarded \$200,000 to complete a pedestrian and cyclist safety demonstration project. Congratulation to both of these communities.

Engagement updates

I'm happy to share some engagement updates from a busy last few months in 2025.

The CMAP team continued to engage communities, partners, and stakeholders across northeastern Illinois and the state — advancing regional priorities through presentations, collaboration, and on-the-ground outreach. In November, our team traveled to Springfield to present to the Engineering Society of Illinois on the 2026 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), sharing how CMAP is shaping the next 20 years of mobility for the region. CMAP also joined the Urban Transportation Center at UIC for a panel on transportation electrification and sustainability; shared updates on the RTP with the Illinois Trucking Association in Joliet; and presented CMAP's Job Quality and Access Tool to researchers at The Ohio State University.

Our engagement also continues to reach students, professionals, and community members directly. CMAP participated in the Chicago Youth Climate Justice Summit, engaging high school students in conversations about climate, transportation, and the future they will inherit. I also participated in awards judging for the American Council of Engineering Companies.

At the local level, we connected with residents in Maywood at the Haunted Trail and Pumpkin Patch Parade to highlight the Roosevelt Road Corridor Plan; and in Midlothian, spoke with families at the Scarecrow Festival about the Midlothian Safety Action Plan.

Finally, I joined local leaders in Streamwood to celebrate the opening of a new bicycle and pedestrian bridge over Illinois Route 59 — a long-awaited project supported through CMAP's programming of federal and state transportation funds. I also moderated a transportation panel for the Hispanic American Construction Industry Association, convening leaders from CDOT, IDOT, the Illinois Tollway, Cook County, and the Governor's Office to discuss major infrastructure investments and emerging opportunities. In early December, I participated in a National Cooperative Highway Research Program co-creation workshop in Washington, D.C., sharing lessons from our region's I-290 Corridor Development Office project with peers from across the country.

Together, all these efforts reflect CMAP's commitment to connecting data with people, strengthening partnerships, and ensuring regional planning delivers real results across northeastern Illinois.

I also want to briefly share that I was honored last month to receive the Motorola Solutions Foundation Excellence in Public Service Award from the Civic Federation.

It truly reflects the collective work of CMAP's board, staff, and partners across northeastern Illinois — particularly our shared efforts to strengthen regional collaboration and advance solutions for complex challenges like transit reform.

I'm grateful for the opportunity to serve this region alongside so many dedicated public servants.

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