



Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

Agenda Item 2.01

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MEMORANDUM

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

Dear Board Members,

This report provides an update ahead of our April 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".

Erin Aleman

April Board meeting

We look forward to seeing you for our meeting on April 8th.

Most of our meeting will include an update and discussion around our work to shape The Century Plan, including hearing from KerrSmith Design, the consultants supporting our scenario planning. They will provide an update on recent work that identified the driving forces and shifts that could shape the region over time. The presentation will also demonstrate how these indicators of change can present themselves differently over time to result in distinct future scenarios.

Technical assistance call for projects accepting applications through April 17

CMAP is pleased to again partner with the Regional Transportation Authority on the annual call for projects for the Technical Assistance program. Through this joint effort, communities can apply using a single, streamlined online application that offers a range of planning assistance.

Applications are being accepted now through noon on Friday, April 17. Interested communities are encouraged to learn more and apply at cmap.is/callforprojects.

Awards are expected to be announced in early summer. This year, the program will include a new category of assistance focused on node-oriented development.

These projects help build local capacity and advance implementation of ON TO 2050 priorities across the region.

Comprehensive Climate Action Plan for Greater Chicago released

We are excited to release the first-ever [Comprehensive Climate Action Plan for Greater Chicago](#), in partnership with the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus and the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission.

As the first regional framework to address all major sources of greenhouse gas emissions across a 13-county area spanning Illinois, Indiana, and Wisconsin, the plan charts a clear and ambitious path forward. Grounded in rigorous data and shaped by community and partner voices, it offers a coordinated roadmap to reduce emissions, improve public health, and strengthen the economy.

A presentation on the *Comprehensive Climate Action Plan* will be provided for Board members at our next meeting in May.

New resources chart path to tackle congestion

CMAP recently published resources to provide local governments, transportation agencies, and planning partners with practical strategies to evaluate, prioritize, and implement congestion solutions including: the [Congestion Management Strategy Guidebook](#) and [Comprehensive Corridor Study Template](#).

The guidebook outlines a range of strategies to [manage congestion](#), guided by the [Mobility Solution Ladder](#) — a tiered framework that emphasizes cost-effective approaches

like preserving the system, reducing vehicle miles traveled, and encouraging mode shift — reserving roadway capacity expansions as a last step when other options are insufficient.

What's next? CMAP will launch a pilot corridor plan for congestion management on one of the identified corridors. This pilot study will apply the guidebook and template to the unique context of one of the region's longstanding congestion corridors.

Early takeaways from Governor Pritzker's FY2027 state budget proposal

CMAP's [early analysis of the FY2027 Illinois budget](#) shows potentially tighter conditions for local governments, even as transit and energy investments move forward.

What we're watching:

- **New transit funding realized:** New revenues for transit are slightly below projections, highlighting the need for long-term, sustainable resources to support future investment needs.
- **Clean energy implementation:** Increased funding for state agencies will help carry out new energy laws, with implications for local planning and infrastructure.

CMAP will release a deeper analysis this spring to help local leaders further understand the impacts on transportation, housing, and fiscal health.

Q3 FY2026 Communications and Engagement metrics and media

The CMAP Communications and Engagement team informs and influences through various platforms — meeting our partners where they are — and the quarterly metrics below capture the agency's extensive work engaging with our many stakeholders.

CMAP Communications & Engagement

Social/newsletters metrics

Q3 FY2026: January-March

	<h3>11 newsletters</h3> <p>Topics including climate, regional economy, planning, transportation, and more</p>
	<h3>20,974</h3> <p>Total unique newsletter opens</p>
	<h3>162,200 social media impressions</h3> <p>Across Instagram, LinkedIn, Facebook, and Threads</p>
	<h3>48 mentions</h3> <p>Media coverage on topics including housing, climate, safety, and more <i>(see below for links)</i></p>
	<h3>20,200</h3> <p>Engagement HQ site visits</p> <h3>579</h3> <p>Contributions, with 3% of visitors contributing to projects</p>

CMAP Q3 FY2026 media mentions

[Chicago Prepares Development Plan For Industrial Zone With Priority For Water And Wetland](#)

Block Club Chicago

[South Side Showdown Over Calumet: City's Wetlands Makeover Meets Resistance](#)

Hoodline

[Chicago from the Air](#)

WTTW (PBS)

[2026 Predictions](#)

Illinois Delivered

[Celebrating 25 years of leadership in freight advocacy](#)

American Journal of Transportation

[CAGTC celebrates 25 years in 2026](#)

The Trucker

[2025 biking highlights in Illinois: Trikes as bikes, e-bikes, new laws and path plans](#)

Daily Herald

[Collaborators behind new "Black Perspectives on Public Transit" website discuss their analysis](#)

StreetsBlog Chicago

[Statewide parking reform sparks mixed reactions](#)

The Daily Northwestern

[Plight of Mama Africa's Marketplace highlights South Shore's increasing appeal ahead of Obama Center opening](#)

Chicago Tribune

[McHenry County's \\$2.25M Safe Streets grant to address 'high-injury' area with roundabout](#)

Shaw Local

[Critics warn rail merger would give Union Pacific unprecedented role in Chicago and more control of industry](#)

Chicago Tribune

[La Grange Eyes Updates For South La Grange Road](#)

Patch

[Ecopia AI and Nearmap Launch Off-the-Shelf Advanced Transportation Feature Data Across North America](#)

Cision

[Grant will help Kenilworth build capital plan](#)

The Record North Shore

[Daily Herald opinion: Tough goal, easy response: As pedestrian traffic deaths climb, one solution for drivers is obvious](#)

Daily Herald

[Evanston residents offer suggestions for city's 2026 Bike Plan Update](#)

The Daily Northwestern

[Celebrating 25 Years of Leadership in Freight Advocacy – CAGTC Anniversary Year to Highlight Historic Achievements and Road Ahead](#)

Movin' Out

[Residents express concerns over bike safety and enforcement at joint ward meeting](#)

Evanston Round Table

[Quantum leap or community crossroads?](#)

Chicago Reader

[Ascension Illinois opens free pharmacies in Hoffman Estates, Elk Grove Village](#)

Daily Herald

2026 Election Questionnaire: Guido Nardini, DuPage County Board	Shaw Local
2026 Election Questionnaire: Bushra Amiwala, U.S. House of Representatives, 9th District	Shaw Local
Referendum question sets \$275 million price tag for addressing rapid growth of Yorkville schools	Kendall Chronicle
New Toledo Lucas County Public Library Board Officers Announced	The Sojourner's Truth
Shop local campaign boosts Brighton Park after immigration raids hurt local businesses	Chicago Sun-Times
Semaphore Café coffee shop opens in East Garfield Park	Austin Weekly News
Neighbors call for North Ave. streetscape work with new petition	Wednesday Journal of Oak Park and River Forest
Plan Scrapped to Turn Edgewater Parking Lot into Apartment Building	The Loyola Phoenix
Diverging Approach: A Regional Road Map	The Yard Social Club
Operation Midway Blitz fallout still being felt in Chicago's Latino neighborhoods	Chicago Sun-Times
'Affordable, Attainable Housing Is Not Optional': Lake County Board Chair	Patch
Letter to the Editor: Selected redevelopment project doesn't meet Homewood's needs	Homewood-Flossmoor Chronicle
Public transit has a chance to re-invent how people connect and get around	Illinois Delivered
This Booming Chicago Suburb Full Of Parks And Shopping Is 'One Of The Best Places To Live In Illinois'	Islands
Two West Side organizations receive \$15 million to help develop new youth community centers	The Tribe
Friday's CMAP meeting could lock in a lakefront walled off by an 8-lane highway. Here's how to comment	StreetsBlog Chicago
Enhancing Transit Signal Priority Implementation Through a Multi-Perspective Analysis	MDPI
Chicago Transit Shake-Up Looms as Lawmakers Eye Mega-Agency	Hoodline Chicago
Lake County takes unique approach in face of housing shortage: 'We need to think big'	Lake County News-Sun
Lake County Health and Community Services Committee met March 3	Lake County Gazette
Take a ride to check out these Bicycle Friendly Communities	Daily Herald

[Groundwater governance research sparks proposed changes to Illinois water use law](#)

[City of Wilmington City Council met Feb. 17](#)

[Mapping For Justice: Population & Households Data – Cook County, IL](#)

[Commentary: Lake Michigan's abundance isn't a guarantee. A plan for the future is imperative.](#)

[Could Congestion Pricing Pay Off for Chicago?](#)

[Onward Neighborhood House breaks ground on Belmont Cragin community center](#)

Freshwater

Will County Gazette

Mapping For Justice

Crain's Chicago Business

Bloomberg

Chicago Sun-Times