

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Community Advisory Committee

**From:** CMAP Staff

**Date:** May 26, 2026

**Subject:** Regional Transportation Plan update

**Action Requested:** Information

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CMAP is leading the development of the 2026 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), which will soon become available for public comment. The RTP will serve as the long-term blueprint for how our region invests in and improves its transportation system over the coming decades. At the Community Advisory Committee meeting, CMAP staff will provide an overview of the plan development process and summarize the plan's content.

Federal law requires that CMAP, as the designated metropolitan planning organization for northeastern Illinois, develop and periodically update a long-range regional transportation plan. This 2026 RTP fulfills those transportation planning requirements. The plan will shape how the region manages, operates, funds, and achieves goals for our transportation system — including public transit, highway, freight, bicycle, pedestrian, and accessible transportation.

The plan development process has been guided by three central questions:

- What kind of transportation system does the region want?
- What are the challenges and opportunities to get there?
- How will the region achieve the transportation system it wants?

To address these questions, the plan establishes a data-driven, performance-based framework, including goals and objectives, performance measures for tracking progress, strategies to guide implementation, and priority investments that advance the goals.

The RTP is guided by the following five goal areas:

1. Strengthen connections between people and places
2. Prioritize safety and public health
3. Mitigate pollution and invest in resilient infrastructure

4. Support economic prosperity and inclusive growth
5. Strategically govern, fund, and preserve the system

To establish the goals, objectives, strategies, and investments, CMAP staff conducted rigorous research, analysis, and coordination with regional transportation stakeholders. Staff reviewed adopted transportation plans from across the region, analyzed data to assess transportation system performance and trends, and identified emerging priorities to focus the plan on the most pressing challenges ahead.

Public and stakeholder engagement has also been central to the RTP development process. CMAP staff conducted outreach with transportation agencies, local governments, community organizations, and residents from across the region to surface needs and opportunities. A series of in-person events across all seven counties of the CMAP region helped ensure that community perspectives have informed RTP goals, objectives, and strategies. Additionally, nearly 1,800 residents participated in a public questionnaire.

### **Next steps**

The draft RTP will soon be released for public review. The upcoming public comment period will provide residents, organizations, municipalities, and agencies across northeastern Illinois the opportunity to review and comment on the draft plan. Once the plan is released, feedback can be submitted through a form at [cmap.is/rtp](https://cmap.is/rtp), by emailing [rtp@cmap.illinois.gov](mailto:rtp@cmap.illinois.gov), or by calling, mailing, or visiting the CMAP office. The comment period is anticipated to run from June 12 through July 31.

All plan development milestone deliverables — including an emerging priorities report, an existing conditions report, and policy briefs — can be found at [cmap.is/rtp](https://cmap.is/rtp).