



**CLIMATE COMMITTEE**

**MEETING MINUTES - DRAFT**

Thursday, May 22, 2025

1:00 PM

**Cook County Conference Room  
433 West Van Buren Street, Suite 450  
Chicago, IL 60607**

Members of the public who attend in-person can pre-register for a visitor's pass at [info@cmap.illinois.gov](mailto:info@cmap.illinois.gov) until Wednesday, May 21, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. or should plan to arrive early to check-in with the building's information desk for access.

You can also join from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87053255417?pwd=c9jsRzIRKAcROcxLgPnc4vF4auCOzY.1>

Meeting ID: 870 5325 5417

Passcode: 417547

CMAP provides the opportunity for public comment. Individuals are encouraged to submit comment by email to [info@cmap.illinois.gov](mailto:info@cmap.illinois.gov) at least 24 hours before the meeting. A record of all written public comments will be maintained and made publicly available.

The total cumulative time for public comment is limited to 15 minutes, unless determined otherwise by the Chair. Public comment is limited to three minutes per person unless the Chair designates a longer or shorter time period. Public comments will be invited in this order: Comments from in person attendees submitted ahead of time; comments from in-person attendees not previously submitted; comments from virtual attendees submitted ahead of time; and comments from virtual attendees not previously submitted.

To review CMAP's public participation policy, please visit <https://www.cmap.illinois.gov/committees>.

If you require a reasonable accommodation or language interpretation services to attend or join the meeting, please contact CMAP at least five days before the meeting by email ([info@cmap.illinois.gov](mailto:info@cmap.illinois.gov)) or phone (312-454-0400).

## 1.0 Call to order and introductions

Chair Durnbaugh called the meeting to order at 1:04 pm and reminded the audience that the meeting is being recorded and provided virtual meeting logistical announcements for the Zoom platform.

Principal Nora Beck called the roll.

**Present:** Jack Chan, Naomi Davis, Aaron Durnbaugh, Robin Grooms, Samira Hanessian, Ethan Kimbrel, Debra Kutska, Scott Kuykendall, Edith Makra, Mary Nicol, Matthew Santagata, Stefan Schaffer and Ryan Wilson

**Absent:** Elena Grossman, Thomas Maillard, Paul May, Emily Reusswig and Vanessa Ruiz

**Staff Present:** George Rivera, Isaura Velez, Joan Smedinghoff, Jon Haadsma, Jules Voight, Kelsey Pudlock, Martin Menninger, Michael Collins, Prithvi Hedge, Ryan Thompto, Quinn Ruiz

**Others Present:** Brian Daly (Cook County), Brian Larson, Gretchen Klock, Joe Surdam (LCDOT), Kris Murphy, Kristi DeLaurentiis, Leslie Rauer, Megan Swanson (IDOT Planning), Michael Sewall (Metra), Tori Woolbright (MMC)

## 2.0 Agenda changes and announcements

### 2.01 Requests for Agenda Changes

There were no changes to the agenda

### 2.02 CMAP updates

Bill Barnes, Deputy of Regional Policy and Implementation, reminded the committee of changes to committee meetings and virtual workshops to encourage attendance and participation with the reservation of one meeting per year to approve minutes.

Deputy Barnes provided an overview of the Transportation Resilience Improvement Program (TRIP), a project that is soliciting transportation resilience projects to be included in CMAP's Regional Transportation Plan. He noted that the TRIP project list will be the region's first compilation of transportation resilience projects and could help make the region more competitive for federal investment opportunities including through the PROTECT Program. Projects for consideration must be submitted by June 3, 2025 to Program Lead, Kate Evasic.

Deputy Barnes provided an update on the Plan of Action for Regional Transit (PART). The PART report resulted in the Modernizing IL Sales Tax Pathway for a Sustainable Future report and is available on CMAP's website.

Deputy Barnes reported the application period for the Future Leaders in Planning (FLIP) program is open until June 2. The program will run July 15-23 at CMAP offices, and includes field trips, meals and transportation.

There were no questions following Deputy Barnes CMAP update.

## 2.03 New Members

Chair Durnbaugh introduced new Member Debra Kutska of Cook County Department of Environment and Sustainability, replacing Member Kevin Schnoes.

Member Debra Kutska introduced herself.

## 3.0 Approval of minutes

### 3.01 Minutes from July 25, 2024

[25-159](#)

**Attachments:** [Draft July 25 2024 Minutes](#)

Member Robin Grooms asked that the meeting minutes be revised and reflect her attendance at the meeting.

Chair Durnbaugh requested the secretary take note of the requested change.

*A motion was made by Mary Nicol, seconded by Ryan Wilson, that the amended minutes be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:*

**Aye:** Jack Chan, Naomi Davis, Aaron Durnbaugh, Robin Grooms, Samira Hanessian, Ethan Kimbrel, Debra Kutska, Scott Kuykendall, Edith Makra, Mary Nicol, Matthew Santagata, Stefan Schaffer and Ryan Wilson

**Absent:** Elena Grossman, Thomas Maillard, Paul May, Emily Reusswig and Vanessa Ruiz

## 4.0 New Business

### 4.01 Fiscal Year 2026 Meeting Schedule

[25-154](#)

**Attachments:** [FY2026 Meeting Schedule Memo](#)

Chair Durnbaugh presented the Fiscal Year 2026 meeting schedule. Principal Nora Beck reminded the committee that the first three dates are fully remote via the workshop format and the fourth date will be an in-person meeting.

*A motion was made by Scott Kuykendall, seconded by Stefan Schaffer, that the Fiscal Year 2026 meeting schedule be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:*

**Aye:** Jack Chan, Naomi Davis, Aaron Durnbaugh, Robin Grooms, Samira Hanessian, Ethan Kimbrel, Debra Kutska, Scott Kuykendall, Edith Makra, Mary Nicol, Matthew Santagata, Stefan Schaffer and Ryan Wilson

**Absent:** Elena Grossman, Thomas Maillard, Paul May, Emily Reusswig and Vanessa Ruiz

### 4.02 Designation of Chair and Vice Chair

[25-155](#)

Deputy Bill Barnes provided an update to the committee on the chair and vice chair appointments. Aaron Durnbaugh has been reappointed as the committee chair and Mary Nicol has been appointed as vice chair of the committee.

### 4.03 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) update

[25-156](#)

**Attachments:** [EPR Cover Memo](#)  
[RTP emerging priorities report](#)

Noah Harris, Policy Analyst gave a brief overview of the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) development process, noting the objectives of the plan is to answer three central questions, "What transportation system do we want, what are the challenges and opportunities to get there, and How will we achieve the transportation system we want." Policy Analyst Harris shared the 2025 timeline

for the RTP, noting that the first half of 2025 has been dedicated to building consensus around the regional vision for transportation and assessing the current state of play in key goal areas. The second half of 2025 will focus on strategic discussions about how goals will be implemented for transportation.

Policy Analyst Harris referenced the Emerging Priorities Report provided in the agenda packet as the first milestone deliverable of the RTP. The report outlines high level goals and objectives that reflect early research and feedback from agencies and organizations throughout the region. He provided details about the Emerging Priorities Report, noting that the document serves as a snapshot to summarize input from research and engagement that builds on current and ongoing regional plan efforts, including the ON TO 2050 plan. The report reflects input from stakeholders such as transportation agencies, county partners, advocacy organizations, and CMAP working committees. The content in the report represents long-standing transportation priorities and topics previously discussed.

Policy Analyst shared the five 2026 RTP goals in the report but focused on the goal of mitigating pollution and investing in resilient infrastructure.

Policy Analyst Harris engaged the committee in discussion including engagement between communities and stakeholders and whether a legislative agenda will be included in the RTP.

The committee engaged in discussion.

#### **4.04 Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP) update**

[25-157](#)

**Attachments:** [Comprehensive Climate Action Plan Memo](#)

Kate Evasic, Program Lead and Mith Hirst, Analyst gave an update on the Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP), sharing an update on the project timeline and noting that the plan is currently in the modeling stage to identify how strategies impact and reduce emissions in communities. The plan has a deadline of December 1, 2025. Program Lead Evasic shared that the 2020 Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory has decreased in Illinois and increased for Indiana and Wisconsin. The goal is to have 85% reduction of gross GHG emissions by 2050 within the greater Chicago area was confirmed with the steering committee in late 2024.

Mitch Hirst, Analyst, gave an update on the GHG Emissions scenarios on the existing policy, the plan implementation scenario and highlight federal, state and local actions to reach targets. Analyst Hirst gave an overview of current policies and provided scenarios with respect to current policies.

Program Lead Evasic and Analyst Hirst engaged the committee in discussion.

## 4.05 Legislative Updates

[25-158](#)

### **Attachments:** [Legislative Update Memo](#)

Ryan Gougis, Intergovernmental Affairs Specialist provided a legislative update on Strengthening Communities Funding Initiative, which is seeking a \$2 million appropriation to support the Technical Assistance Program. The goal of the legislation is to secure inclusion in the FY2026 budget. He shared that IGA Director, John Carpenter has been actively advocating for this funding in Springfield.

In addition, CMAP recently participated in transit town halls across the region, including visits to Westmont, Algonquin and Evanston, providing an opportunity to engage directly with local constituents.

Member Thomas Maillard inquired about legislative sponsors for the Technical Assistance funding. Specialist Gougis confirmed that Representative Will Davis, representing the south suburbs, is serving as the lead sponsor.

A legislative update was given.

## 5.0 Member Updates

There were no committee member updates.

## 6.0 Other Business

Member Naomi Davis sought clarification on what the Technical Assistance Program consists of.

Specialist Gougis explained that the Technical Assistance Program allows local municipalities and local government partners across the region to apply for various types of planning support such as ADA transition plans, comprehensive plans, and bike and pedestrian plans.

## 7.0 Public Comment

This is an opportunity for comments from members of the audience.  
There were no public comments.

## 8.0 Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Climate Committee will occur as a virtual workshop on July 17, 2025 at 1:00pm.

## 9.0 Adjournment

Chair Durnbaugh adjourned the meeting at 2:24 pm.

Minutes prepared by Isaura Velez