



Chicago Metropolitan
Agency for Planning

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MEMORANDUM

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

Dear Board Members,

This report provides an update ahead of our June 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

June Board meeting

The Board will meet on June 10th.

On the agenda, the Board will be asked to approve the draft 2026 Regional Transportation Plan for public comment. The Transportation Committee approved this at their May meeting.

If approved for release, the draft RTP will be made available for public comment, which is anticipated to run from June 12 through July 31. A public hearing is scheduled for Thursday, August 6, from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. at CMAP's office in the Old Post Office.

The Century Plan team will also provide an update on the challenges and opportunities that are emerging as priorities for regional coordination: infrastructure, drinking water, the electric grid, housing supply, and open space.

We will also have an update on state legislation as the spring session recently came to a close.

We look forward to seeing you on June 10th.

CMAP federal certification

In January, CMAP underwent its federal certification review, a required review that occurs every four years to ensure our metropolitan transportation planning process meets federal standards for Transportation Management Areas.

FHWA and FTA jointly notified CMAP and IDOT that the Chicago IL, TMA's metropolitan transportation planning process meets federal requirements and is certified.

There were no corrective actions identified or issued in the report.

CMAP was commended for:

- Its Performance Measures Dashboard and regionally significant project benefits report
- Certification Review webpage
- Facilitating the Corridor Development Office (CDO) for the I-290/Blue Line project and encouraged CMAP to use this model for similar projects
- Collaboration with IDOT and Illinois MPOs on statewide eTIP deployment
- For developing detailed programming documents for STP, CMAQ, and TA programs
- The RTP, Congestion Management Process, Freight engagement webpages, and centralized committee materials are notable practices

Recommendations included:

- Supporting a smooth transition from RTA to NITA

- Improving clarity and consistency in the Unified Work Program (UWP)
- Strengthening coordination with IDOT and other MPOs
- Enhancing performance-based planning and target setting
- Increasing transparency and clarity in the TIP
- Advancing freight planning priorities

CMAP 2026 Technical Assistance Call for Projects recommended awards

The CMAP Technical Assistance and the Regional Transit Authority Community Planning programs support communities by offering planning and implementation assistance, providing interagency expertise, leverage the region’s transit network, and building local government capacity. This work aligns with the comprehensive plan for the region, ON TO 2050, and the regional transit strategic plan, Invest in Transit.

In conjunction with the RTA’s Community Planning program, CMAP held a call for new technical assistance projects in spring 2026. Applications were due on April 17, 2026, and CMAP and the RTA received a combined 54 applications from 46 different applicants.

Staff evaluated applications against five application strengths.

- Achieves the goals associated with the sought-after type of assistance.
- Strengthens planning capacity.
- Increases community engagement and empowerment.
- Implements previously developed local plans.
- Facilitates collaboration across jurisdictions.

Staff also solicited input on the applications from many groups, including the transit service boards, County planning and transportation departments, and partner technical assistance providers. Staff conducted interviews with selected applicants to further understand the potential scope of work and resource requirements.

Twenty-six projects were selected for inclusion in the 2026 project group. Awarded projects will begin in FY2027, with Wave One projects kicking off first, followed by Wave Two. These projects meet many of the identified application strengths, and all have strong transportation ties. Projects include five ADA self-evaluation and transition plans, seven capital improvement plans, and three bicycle and pedestrian plans. Information on the recommended projects is below.

Staff project recommendations		
Community	Project type	Project Kickoff Wave
Monee	ADA self-evaluation and transition plan	Wave One
Bannockburn	ADA self-evaluation and transition plan	Wave One
Berkeley	ADA self-evaluation and transition plan	Wave One
East Dundee	ADA self-evaluation and transition plan	Wave Two
Franklin Park	ADA self-evaluation and transition plan	Wave Two
Berwyn	Bicycle and pedestrian plan	Wave Two
Winfield	Bicycle and pedestrian plan	Wave Two
Lake Villa	Bicycle and pedestrian plan	Wave One
Diamond	Capital improvement plan	Wave Two
Indian Head Park	Capital improvement plan	Wave Two
Pingree Grove	Capital improvement plan	Wave Two
Richton Park	Capital improvement plan	Wave Two
South Chicago Heights	Capital improvement plan	Wave Two
Summit	Capital improvement plan	Wave Two
University Park	Capital improvement plan	Wave Two
Lockport	Corridor plan (159 th Street)	Wave Two
Plainfield	Corridor plan (Lockport Street / Main Street)	Wave One

Addison	Local road safety plan	Wave Two
Clarendon Hills	Local road safety plan	Wave One
Hanover Park	NEXT	Wave Two
Wauconda	NEXT	Wave One
Woodridge	NEXT	Wave One
Minooka	Node-oriented development plan	Wave One
Arlington Heights	Travel choice pilot plan	Wave Two
Park Forest	Travel choice pilot plan	Wave Two
Sugar Grove	Travel choice pilot plan	Wave One

Follow-up communication regarding application status will be provided to all applicants, and staff will begin initiation of technical assistance projects with awardees in July 2026.

Community Advisory Committee

CMAP’s [Community Advisory Committee](#) met June 2 with new members representing nine organizations from the region in varied sectors – community, housing, education, industry, tourism, transportation, and accessibility. The CAC provides community-focused perspectives to inform CMAP’s initiatives, expand the agency’s understanding of community issues, and articulate local and regional challenges and opportunities. The Community Advisory Committee was created to provide continuous and balanced public representation in the development of regional plans and policies, as required by the Illinois Regional Planning Act, and considered the Regional Transportation Plan at their June 2 meeting.

FY2026 community cohorts

CMAP uses the [Community Cohort Evaluation Tool](#) to assess local capacity and technical assistance needs, ensuring fair project selection and funding. The tool groups the region’s 284 municipalities and Chicago’s 77 community areas into four cohorts based on population, income, tax base per capita, and the share of residents living in [disinvested areas](#). Cohorts are updated each April to reflect changing community conditions.

CMAP has published the [FY2026 community cohorts](#). Cohort assignments are based on a three-year rolling average of annual overall scores to reduce year-to-year fluctuations. The FY2026 scores were averaged with those from FY2025 and FY2024 to determine final cohort placement.