



# CMAP News

## FACT SHEET: Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) and GO TO 2040 comprehensive regional plan

### About CMAP

CMAP was created in 2005 as the comprehensive regional planning organization for the northeastern Illinois counties of Cook, DuPage, Kane, Kendall, Lake, McHenry, and Will. The CMAP Board is chaired by Gerald Bennett, mayor of Palos Hills. Reflecting the regional consensus that led to the creation of CMAP, the Board's membership features balanced representation from across the seven counties, including current or former elected officials and business leaders. Executive director Randy Blankenhorn leads the CMAP staff, which has diverse capabilities in comprehensive planning, data research and analysis, and related disciplines. CMAP committees at the policy, advisory, coordinating, and working levels play integral roles in the agency's planning processes.

### About GO TO 2040

On October 13, 2010, leaders of metropolitan Chicago's seven counties voted to adopt GO TO 2040, the region's first comprehensive plan since Daniel Burnham's in 1909. Implementation of the plan will now be led by CMAP. The plan is available at [www.cmap.illinois.gov/2040](http://www.cmap.illinois.gov/2040).

GO TO 2040 is intended to guide development and investment decisions through mid-century and beyond. GO TO 2040 seeks to strategically align public policies and investments, maximizing the benefits of scarce resources as the region adds more than 2 million new residents by 2040. The plan has four themes and 12 recommendation areas:

**Livable Communities.** This theme addresses diverse factors that together shape quality of life in terms of "livability" -- what attracts people to a particular community.

1. Achieve Greater Livability through Land Use and Housing
2. Manage and Conserve Water and Energy Resources
3. Expand and Improve Parks and Open Space
4. Promote Sustainable Local Food

**Human Capital.** This theme addresses factors that determine whether our region's economy will thrive due to availability of skilled workers and a climate in which business creativity can flourish.

5. Improve Education and Workforce Development
6. Support Economic Innovation

**Efficient Governance.** This theme addresses the need for increased effectiveness of governments in the region and beyond, to meet residents' needs regarding accountability and transparency.

7. Reform State and Local Tax Policy
8. Improve Access to Information
9. Pursue Coordinated Investments

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**Regional Mobility.** This theme addresses the vitality of our region’s transportation system, which is crucial for economic prosperity and overall quality of life. This chapter also includes descriptions of major capital projects that have been carefully selected to help achieve the GO TO 2040 vision.

10. Invest Strategically in Transportation
11. Increase Commitment to Public Transit
12. Create a More Efficient Freight Network

### **Local Planning Assistance program**

The day after GO TO 2040 was adopted, CMAP received a \$4.25 million grant through HUD’s Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program. On March 9, 2011, following a region-wide call for proposals, CMAP announced the first wave of projects identified for local planning assistance in implementing GO TO 2040 strategies. Projects include the preparation or update of local comprehensive plans, as well as assistance with public participation related to challenging projects. As an indication of the significant demand and lack of sufficient capacity for local planning, over 130 applicants submitted more than 220 distinct projects for consideration. The HUD-funded effort is helping fill this gap by making staff resources and grants available to assist with local planning projects that help to implement GO TO 2040, the regional comprehensive plan. Even as these first projects have begun, CMAP is working to prioritize others proposed by municipalities, counties, interjurisdictional groups, and nongovernmental organizations.

### **CRIBB program**

CMAP and the City of Chicago, with support from suburban and regional stakeholders, joined forces to start a building retrofit program for the Chicago region as part of DOE’s building retrofit program with the \$25 million grant awarded last April. Called the “Chicago Region Initiative for Better Buildings (CRIBB),” interjurisdictional consortium includes partners that range from government to nonprofits to businesses. The City of Chicago, which hoped to focus on retrofits as part of the Chicago Climate Action Plan, wanted to partner with CMAP because issues like energy efficiency are best tackled at the regional level.

### **MetroPulse**

Another implementation activity of the plan is a state-of-the-art web data portal called MetroPulse ([www.metropulsechicago.org](http://www.metropulsechicago.org)), which provides access to data across more than 200 quality-of-life variables addressed by GO TO 2040. Launched in November 2009, this is a significant step toward implementing the regional information sharing recommendation of GO TO 2040. MetroPulse website is a joint project of the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) and The Chicago Community Trust. Together, CMAP and the Trust have developed a comprehensive system of key indicators for measuring and tracking regional quality of life over time in the seven counties of metropolitan Chicago. The project is designed as a tool that can be used by policy makers, community leaders, media and the general public to gather objective data that can inform their work and facilitate decision making. A key goal of the project is to track progress toward implementing GO TO 2040. As such, indicators are divided into the major themes originally identified in the 2040 vision, with equity, sustainability, and innovation woven throughout.

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*Revised on March 25, 2011*