



CMAP's Federal Agenda

The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) was formed through a regional consensus to approach planning comprehensively and collaboratively. The Illinois General Assembly unanimously passed the Regional Planning Act before being signed by the Governor in August 2005. Mayors, county chairs and other local officials gave broad support to the formation of the new agency, which is a merger of the Chicago Area Transportation Study and the Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission. CMAP serves the counties of Cook, DuPage, Kane, Kendall, Lake, McHenry and Will with a total population of 8.1 million and 280 municipalities and is expected to grow by 2 million residents and 1.2 million more jobs by 2030. CMAP and its partners are removing barriers to cooperation across geographical boundaries, and across subject areas like land use, transportation, natural resources, and economic development. By understanding how these issues -- and our communities' futures -- are inter-related, CMAP wants to change the way planning is conducted in northeastern Illinois.

CMAP is pursuing a number of legislative priorities within the state legislature and is interested in increasing its presence at the federal level. The following are CMAP's federal priorities for 2007. For more information, contact Gordon Smith, deputy executive director for external relations, 312-386-8739 or gsmith@cmapp.illinois.gov.

- 1. Work with NARC (National Association of Regional Councils) and AMPO (Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations) to develop and advocate legislative priorities.**
- 2. Educate, inform and build a stronger partnership with the Chicago region's congressional delegation and federal agencies in terms of CMAP's roles and responsibilities.**
- 3. Review and respond to federal policy changes impacting CMAP.**
- 4. Pursue and secure federal funding for CMAP program areas and special projects.**

Key Issues

Funding for sub-regional planning activities

In existence for just over a year now, the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) aims to transform the way planning is conducted and investment decisions are made for the seven-county region in northeastern Illinois, both at the regional and local levels. Good planning without implementation is better than no planning at all — but not much. The metropolitan region has traditionally suffered from a disconnect between high-minded plans and what actually happens on the ground with decisions regarding land use and transportation. Such a lack of follow-through is what prompts some to advocate a top-down regulatory approach. That is not CMAP's preferred strategy because, among other drawbacks, it can be counter-productive for a region striving to improve its position in the global economy. But there is much that can be done to build intergovernmental cooperation, in part by providing better information and tools to clarify the consequences of decisions.

One way this can be accomplished is by directing federal funds to sub-regional planning activities. This would assist in implementing regional plans by creating local plans that comprehensively examine issues such as housing, economic development, land use, infrastructure and environmental resources. CMAP would like to explore the possibility for funding these planning activities with our congressional delegation.

Potential funding of up to \$500,000 for enhancing and integrating environmental and land use issues into the transportation planning process at the regional and sub-regional level. Potential funding sources- US Department of Transportation.

Water Supply

Almost 16 billion gallons of water are used in Illinois each day in industries, agriculture, domestic consumption, commerce, and energy production, with over 2 billion gallons daily withdrawn and not returned to the source. Individuals consume an average of about 150 gallons of water each day from public water supplies. Due to projected growth of the population and economy, Illinois could require 20 to 50 percent more water in coming decades. We also need to sustain healthy populations of fish and aquatic wildlife and wetlands, and to support recreation and navigation in rivers, streams, lakes, and reservoirs. Ensuring adequate and reliable supplies of clean water for all users at reasonable cost requires us to think ahead to the year 2050. As a state, we need to know how much water will be available, how much water we will need, what the options are for providing additional supplies, reducing demand and what the impacts and costs will be.

CMAP is coordinating a major effort in an 11-county area to define a comprehensive program for state and regional water-supply planning and management. It is imperative that CMAP work with its congressional delegation along with federal agencies that address these issues.

Potential funding up to \$300,000 to look at additional sub-regional level issues along with the more global 11-county perspective. Potential funding sources-US Environmental Protection Agency.

Economic Development

While the private sector has not traditionally been very involved in public planning processes, CMAP intends to change that. With our existing data and resources, we can assist in economic and community development by providing input into location decisions or infrastructure development. Based on feedback from business and community leaders, CMAP can best support economic development efforts by emphasizing the core activities of integrating land-use and transportation planning and provide easily accessible data and information to both the public and the private sectors.

Job growth and development are important to our region and in the global economy, as is improving the flow of freight through northeastern Illinois. As CMAP begins to address the many economic development issues that impact the region, it is critical to understand and be knowledgeable about the opportunities, programs and regulations at the federal level affecting these activities.

It is important to provide the region with additional economic development data collection resources in order to better evaluate northeastern Illinois' opportunities in the global economy. To effectively achieve this, funding of \$200,000 would be necessary. Additionally, because economic development occurs beyond traditional political boundaries, funding of \$250,000 should be made available to coordinate sub-regional, county and local efforts. Potential funding sources- US Department of Commerce.

SAFETEA-LU Reauthorization

As staff for the region's Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), CMAP is working to promote a regional transportation system that is safe, efficient, and accessible while sustaining the region's vision related to the natural environment, economic and community development, social equity, and public health. An area where CMAP efforts may have their most immediate impact is in the development of a regional transportation financial plan to address the adequacy of funding to meet identified needs for regional transportation agencies in all modes of transportation and the allocation of funds to regional priorities.

Although federal transportation reauthorization is a couple years away, the CMAP Board is working to establish strategic principles and funding criteria, to identify and promote regional transportation priorities. The goal is to have a unified voice in terms of regional priorities to pursue funding in the next reauthorization.