



Chicago Metropolitan
Agency for Planning

Executive Summary

of the Strategic Report on
Visioning, Governance
and Funding

September 2006

Submitted to Governor Blagojevich and the Illinois General Assembly

The Chicago metropolitan area faces many challenges as the 21st Century unfolds. As a region, we need to ensure an adequate and safe water supply that will allow the region to meet its growth projections. We need to ensure housing and transportation options that offer real alternatives to our citizens as they decide where they want to live and work. We need to create an economic climate that emphasizes the significant assets that are unique to northeastern Illinois. We must protect our natural resources of global and national significance and continue to preserve open space and recreation opportunities for future generations. And we must build communities that are sustainable, emphasizing their unique and diverse character.

With a projected two million additional residents by 2030, the region is now at a crossroads. Continued growth is clearly ahead. Yet to be determined is whether that growth will constitute progress rather than an erosion of residents' quality of life. Together, through collaborative planning, decision makers must shape these trends regionally instead of passively letting them shape our individual communities. Nor are these challenges confined to the geographic boundaries of the seven counties that comprise CMAP; in fact, they impact the entire state of Illinois and cross state boundaries.

Background

To address these and other regional challenges, in the Spring of 2005, local government, business, and community leaders recommended to the Governor and the General Assembly the creation of a new public agency to coordinate comprehensive planning in northeastern Illinois. The legislature unanimously approved the Regional Planning Act (House Bill 3121), which Governor Blagojevich signed into law in August 2005. This legislation created the Regional Planning Board—now known as the Board of the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP)—and stated that “a streamlined consolidated planning agency is necessary in order to plan for the most effective public and private investments in the northeastern Illinois region and to better integrate plans for land use and transportation.” The Board began meeting in October 2005 and has made substantial progress toward consolidating within CMAP the two agencies that had, respectively, been responsible for planning of transportation and land use: The Chicago Area Transportation Study (CATS) and the Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission (NIPC).

Vision

The CMAP Board's vision is to provide the framework that will help our region connect its land use to the transportation systems, preserve its environment, and sustain its economic prosperity. The agency must be responsive to the region's residents, working cooperatively with municipalities and counties that maintain authority for local land-use decisions. CMAP is integrating specialized expertise in a number of areas—research and analysis, transportation, land use, environment and natural resources, housing, economic and community development, and human services—to preserve and enhance quality of life for current and future generations. To accomplish this, CMAP will:

- Develop a comprehensive framework for the region's future through long-range regional plans and strategies.
 - Provide high-quality information and analysis through coordinated technical assistance to facilitate regional decision making.
 - Build consensus to identify and advocate for regional priorities.
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Mission

CMAP will coordinate the efforts of policy makers across the region, providing them with the best available technical assistance and analysis that is relevant to the choices they face each day. By taking the following measures, we will improve the way decisions about investment and land use are made in northeastern Illinois:

- CMAP will create a comprehensive plan, as required by the Regional Planning Act, to outline a vision for the region's future and the strategies necessary to realize that vision. It is vitally important to fully integrate this work by breaking down barriers, which often have artificially separated traditional planning functions that should naturally intersect.
- CMAP will do more than just create plans. If the region is not implementing those plans, then no matter how good the planning effort, our agency will not have accomplished its mission. CMAP will carefully identify regional priorities and work with our local, county, state, and national partners to ensure that those objectives are met.
- CMAP will continue to convene, support, and facilitate coordination among local jurisdictions. We will promote best practices not only from other parts of the country and the world, but also from right here in northeastern Illinois. We will work with our partners to provide incentives for decision makers to plan sustainable communities and to plan across political boundaries. CMAP will build on regional cooperation that has already occurred and play a leadership role on issues that have significant regional impacts.
- CMAP will develop a transportation financial plan in cooperation with the federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization. This plan will address the adequacy of funding to meet identified needs for regional transportation agencies in all transportation modes and the allocation of funds to regional priorities, also recognizing the importance of funding to maintain our existing infrastructure.

With comprehensive and coordinated planning as outlined in the report, CMAP will address the region's most significant challenges. To accomplish this, CMAP will need a stable, dedicated source of funding, which will be part of a comprehensive legislative package that we and our partners will prepare for the General Assembly's 2007 session. As the new agency continues to evolve, we will work shoulder-to-shoulder with those partners and sponsors to successfully implement the Regional Planning Act.

Members of the CMAP Board

Executive Committee

Gerald Bennett, Chair
Rita Athas, Vice Chair
Michael Smith, Vice Chair
Elliott Hartstein,
At-Large Member
Al Larson,
At-Large Member
Nigel Telman,
At-Large Member

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Frank Beal,
Executive Director,
Chicago Metropolis 2020
Raul Raymundo,
Executive Director,
Resurrection Project
André Rice,
President, Muller and Monroe Asset
Management
Nigel Telman,
Partner, Sidley Austin, LLP

Cook County Appointments

Gerald Bennett, Mayor,
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Anthony Calderone, Mayor,
Forest Park (West Central Cook)
Zenovia Evans, Mayor,
Riverdale (South Cook)
Calvin Jordan, Highway
Commissioner, Rich Township (Cook)
Al Larson, Mayor,
Schaumburg (Northwest Cook)

Collar County Appointments

Elliott Hartstein, Mayor,
Buffalo Grove (Lake)
Marilyn Michelini, Mayor,
Montgomery (Kane/Kendall)
Dan Shea, McHenry
County Board Member
(McHenry)
Michael Smith, Mayor,
New Lenox (Will)
Rae Rupp Srch, former Mayor,
Villa Park (DuPage)

Agency Representatives (non-voting members)

Ed Paesel,
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