

Comprehensive Regional Planning Fund (CRPF): Why it's Critical to Northeastern Illinois

FUNDING UPDATE

- STATUS: CRPF received \$0 in FY10
- CMAP FUNDS: The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) provided CMAP with a \$2.8 million grant as a stop gap measure for the \$0 balance in the CRPF; the grant **DOES NOT** address the shortage of funds for other statutorily required planning activities at CMAP like, water, wastewater, land use, and other planning issues.
- ACTION NEEDED: **Restore Comprehensive Regional Planning Fund to \$5 million for FY11.**

About the CRPF

The fund was created in 2007 (Public Act 95-0677) with a \$5 million annual appropriation from the General Revenue Fund (GRF) for comprehensive planning in Illinois. This fund was intended as a **stable, dedicated source of funding** for *effective* comprehensive planning statewide. These funds are dispersed by the Illinois Department of Transportation to metropolitan and rural areas across the state through the local Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). In northeastern Illinois, CMAP serves as the federally designated MPO. Federal law requires MPOs to match U.S. Department of Transportation funds used for regional transportation planning.

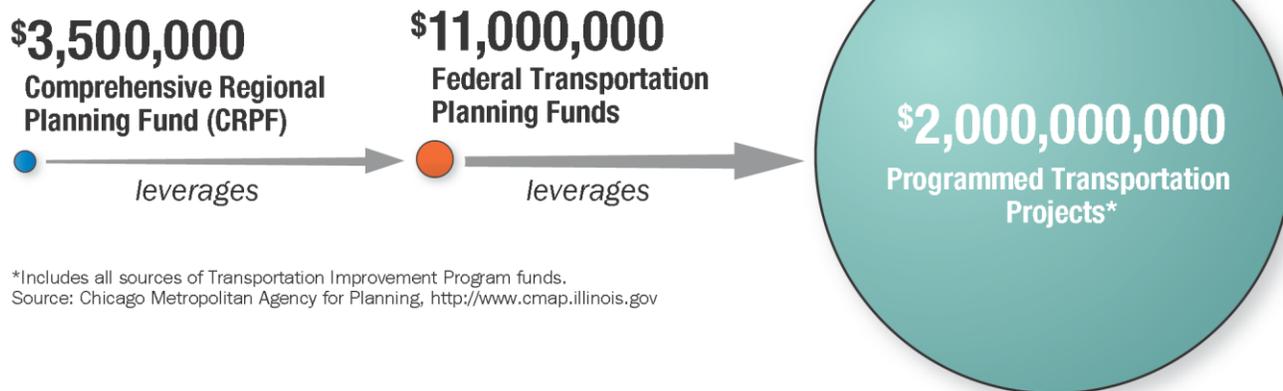
In FY 2009, CMAP received \$3.5 million from the CRPF. The appropriation leveraged \$11 million in federal transportation planning funds. **The loss of these funds will seriously reduce regional planning capacity.** In addition to providing the required matching of those federal dollars, the CRPF contribution to CMAP supports the agency's varied non-transportation activities, which include planning and technical assistance to municipalities on issues such as housing, community development, management of natural resources, water resources, data acquisition and analysis, and more.

Capacity at Risk

Failure to fund the CRPF will seriously reduce regional planning capacity. The following are among the examples of CMAP leadership that no other agency is suited to provide:

- Preparation of *GO TO 2040*, the region's first comprehensive plan, which is on-schedule for completion in late 2010 to guide development and investment for northeastern Illinois.
- Coordination of the region's response to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, including tracking of funding opportunities, tracking of projects, and reporting on successes.
- Assistance to local governments seeking to apply for federal foreclosure relief and related housing matters.
- Oversight of the Regional Water Supply Plan for an 11-county area that faces potential shortages without aggressive steps to conserve water by managing demand.
- Development of the Regional Indicators Project to predict and measure outcomes of detailed strategies for guiding growth and preserving quality of life.

Metropolitan Chicago: Annual Leveraging of the Illinois Comprehensive Regional Planning Fund (CRPF)



*Includes all sources of Transportation Improvement Program funds.
Source: Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, <http://www.cmap.illinois.gov>

Federal Funding at Risk

The CRPF provides a source of stable, dedicated funding for effective comprehensive planning throughout Illinois. Without the ability to match federal transportation planning dollars, **northeastern Illinois would lose \$11 million federal planning funds**. Furthermore, because CMAP is the region's MPO, the inability to match our federal transportation planning funds and manage the regional Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) could jeopardize all of the region's programmed transportation projects -- which total \$2 billion annually (See graphic). This would also apply to all American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds, as well as any new state capital bill intended to leverage federally appropriated dollars.

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