

Regional Freight Planning Recommendations Study

Draft Framework Themes

To develop draft Regional Freight Planning Framework Themes, a variety of sources were consulted, stakeholders interviewed, and a regional Framework Charrette conducted to determine current and future aspirations for the freight system. Draft Framework Themes have been developed within six key categories, reflecting five key elements of the freight transportation system, as well as a sixth category to address environmental and community concerns. These themes build on the CMAP's established Regional Vision for the GO TO 2040 Plan (refer to key vision statements on pg 4):

- **Economy** - Theme to reflect economic growth projections for the Chicago region's economy and communities (2040 and beyond);
- **Industry Logistics Patterns** - Theme to reflect industry sectors and communities that could benefit from better freight services based on their current and anticipated freight logistics needs;
- **Freight Infrastructure** - Theme to reflect freight system components and corridors; how highway, rail, air and water are interlinked and support each other;
- **Commodity/Vehicle Traffic Flows** - Theme to reflect flows on the freight system, and the Chicago region's ability to sustain them while supporting social, economic, and environmental goals;
- **Organization and Public Policy** - Theme to reflect policies, procedures, and key criteria for evaluating and programming specific freight programs and projects for public participation, whether directly through investment or indirectly through regulation; and
- **Environmental and Community Impacts** - Theme to reflect impacts freight has on the Chicago region's environment and communities.

NOTE: These are preliminary framework statements for the freight system in the Chicago region. These statements will be reshaped and refined during the study using the information generated by the subsequent study tasks and stakeholder input. The final report will incorporate final framework statements linked to project recommendations that serve the intent of framework themes.

Draft Theme #1: Economy

In 2040, the Chicago region's freight system will contribute to the growth, productivity, and changing needs of business and industry by providing cost-effective and reliable access to resources, markets, and labor.

- *The freight system will be developed to ensure the Chicago region is economically competitive.*
- *The freight system will be developed to ensure the Chicago region is a growth leader.*
- *Economic uncertainties will continue; the Chicago region will have flexibility to adapt to economic them.*

Draft Theme #2: Industry Logistics Patterns

In 2040, the Chicago region will serve as an International hub for goods movement.

- *The Chicago region will continue to grow as a hub for distribution of consumer goods as its population expands.*
- *The Chicago region will continue as a through and transfer hub for goods crossing between the east, west and gulf coast ports, North America and the world.*
- *The Chicago region's freight system will provide options to shippers in terms of market access, modal access, and service.*
- *Industry logistics and supply chain patterns will change; the Chicago region's freight system will adapt to continue serving as an International hub for goods movement.*

Draft Theme #3: Freight Infrastructure

In 2040, the Chicago region's freight infrastructure will provide seamless, efficient connections to markets beyond the region's/state's borders, throughout North America, and to the world.

- *The Chicago region's freight system will provide access between the east, west and gulf coast ports, North America and the world through seamless highway, rail, air, and water connections.*
- *The Chicago region's freight system will provide "last mile" access for local delivery.*
- *The Chicago region's freight system will offer alternatives to highways for freight transportation.*
- *The Chicago region's freight infrastructure will be in good repair where it is most needed.*
- *The Chicago region will make efficient use of existing infrastructure and making "biggest bang for the buck" investments.*

Draft Theme #4: Commodity/Vehicle Traffic Flows

In 2040, the Chicago region's freight system will have operational capacity to accommodate highway, rail, water, and air freight commodity and vehicle flows.

- *The Chicago region will encourage using the most efficient mode of freight for the trip purpose.*
- *The Chicago region will make efficient use of existing infrastructure through the use of travel demand management strategies.*
- *The Chicago region will make efficient use of existing infrastructure through the use of technology.*

Draft Theme #5: Organization and Public Policy

In 2040, the Chicago region's public and private freight stakeholders will have shared goals and priorities on the process used for identifying the region's freight system needs, priorities, and making investment decisions.

- *The Chicago region's public and private stakeholders will collaborate on freight planning; using key criteria for evaluating and programming specific freight programs and projects.*
- *The Chicago region's public and private stakeholders will collaborate on freight financing decisions.*
- *The Chicago region's public and private stakeholders will collaborate on freight policy and regulation decisions; all modes will be considered and decisions will not favor modes as a result of their institutional structure. Decisions will be directed towards achieving optimal outcomes for the region.*
- *The Chicago region will work with freight operators in an equitable, non-discriminatory manner on issues such as taxes, economic regulation, and other elements that affect modal competitiveness.*

Draft Theme #6: Environmental and Community Impacts

In 2040, public and private freight stakeholders will contribute positively to the quality of life in metropolitan Chicago.

- *The Chicago region's freight system will developed to serve goods movement needs while supporting social, economic, and environmental goals.*
- *The Chicago region will mitigate the negative impacts of freight transportation.*
- *The Chicago region will explore freight as a means to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and making the best use of energy resources.*

Key Regional Vision Statements taken from “GO TO 2040” that relate to the Regional Freight Planning Framework Themes development:

The Regional Vision describes CMAP’s desired future in terms of the region’s quality of life, natural environment, social systems, economy, infrastructure, and governance. Throughout all of these vision themes, three other cross-cutting issues recur: **sustainability**, **equity**, and **innovation**.

- *“To address **sustainability**, we must meet the needs of the present without compromising the future. A high quality of life in the region will be possible only if the leaders of today and the future take significant actions to ensure the sustainability of the region’s systems and activities. Between now and 2040, our leaders will weigh the environmental, economic, and social impacts of their decisions, both locally and globally, and will consider the needs of future generations.”*
- *“The region will be strengthened by taking an active approach to **equity**. The benefits and burdens caused by the region’s investments and policies will be fairly distributed to all parts of the region. In addition, these benefits and burdens will be shared between groups of people, regardless of age, gender, income, race, ethnicity, culture, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, or disability status. All residents will have the opportunity to access the region’s economic, educational, housing, and other assets. Also, the diversity of the region’s many cultures will be celebrated as one of our strengths.”*
- *“The region will embrace **innovation** and use creative strategies to meet our challenges and opportunities. Our innovation will drive economic growth and keep our region competitive in the changing global economy. It will also allow us to address environmental, energy, social, and infrastructure problems. The region will be on the forefront of developing new technologies, with innovative approaches to providing public services and increasing cooperation between public and private sectors.”*

“In 2040, the northeastern Illinois region will be a magnet attracting new, diverse residents, businesses, and investments from all over the world. The region will be known for a high quality of life, based on its sustainable, equitable, innovative, and inclusive approaches to planning.

- *Regional planning and development will be aimed at achieving the highest possible **quality of life** and well-being for all of its residents. The region will consist of attractive, interdependent communities with distinct identities. These identities will be built on their histories, natural and physical assets, architecture, and aesthetic preferences, reflecting the uniqueness of their residents and businesses. Northeastern Illinois will remain a global destination for tourism and culture because of its internationally-recognized architecture, arts institutions, entertainment options, and other cultural and natural amenities. Our communities will have access to an abundance of art forms, our residents will enjoy the opportunity to participate in various art forms, and our region will continue to sustain world-class artistic and cultural institutions. The region will have diverse housing, transportation, and recreation choices, and its residents will have equitable access to employment, education, health care, and other regional assets. Through appropriate infrastructure investments, the region will remain connected to global networks of commodities movement, energy, and information, all of which are necessary to maintain a high quality of life.”*

“In 2040, decision making in northeastern Illinois will be informed by considerations of environmental health, energy use, and water supply.

- *The region will be a world leader in implementing innovative measures to protect the **environment**, including air quality, biodiversity, natural and human communities, water quality and supply, and the overall ecological health and diversity of the region. The region’s nationally recognized system of open space – including forest preserves, conservation districts, and parks – will continue to shape regional identity and contribute to the health of our residents. Especially along sensitive waterways, open space will be preserved and expanded, creating green infrastructure networks that enhance people’s connection with nature and serve as habitat corridors. Lake Michigan and the lakefront will be protected in a coordinated effort with other states, regions, and countries as an irreplaceable natural resource for biodiversity, health, recreation, tourism, and economic prosperity. The region will actively minimize and mitigate the environmental effects of its activities – including climate change – and will be prepared to adapt to future environmental conditions.”*
- *Our region will consume less **energy** and fewer natural resources. The region will remain an innovative leader in green building techniques and conservation design, promoting energy efficiency and conservation of water and other resources. The region will also take national leadership in the research, development, and production of green energy. The region’s residents and businesses will use energy conscientiously through individual actions such as recycling and use of energy-efficient products. Regional energy consumption for transportation will be reduced by abundant transportation options that provide alternatives to driving alone, by mixed-use infill development that allows many trips to be made using alternative transportation modes, and by a balanced supply of jobs and housing that limits the need to travel long distances for work. New development and redevelopment will be designed to limit energy use and minimize disturbance of sensitive environmental land.”*

“In 2040, the economy of northeastern Illinois will enjoy a global status that ensures superior job opportunities throughout the region for all socio-economic groups.

- *The **economic strengths** of our region’s interdependent communities will complement each other, with the entire region benefiting from its international recognition as a diversified center of commerce and its location at the center of the nation. Long-term economic benefits will be created by making efficient use of resources and existing infrastructure and by enhancing our environment, public health, social equity, cultural amenities, education systems, and physical infrastructure. Investments in the region’s human capital will occur through workforce development programs or other training that prepares students and workers to excel in the diversified jobs of the future. The region will be a center of innovation across all disciplines and will encourage creativity and entrepreneurial activity. The importance of freight and intermodal systems to our economy will be recognized and supported through regional policies, investments, and infrastructure decisions. The region’s agriculture, which takes advantage of our fertile farmland, will be valued as an important regional resource because of the economic contribution it makes, the food and fuel it produces, the scenic value it provides, and the soil and water it protects.”*