Improve Access to Information

Implementation Action Area #1: Launch the Regional Indicators Project's MetroPulse Website

Action	Lead Implementers	Specifics	Retain/Revise/ Complete/Delete
Launch the Regional Indicators Project's MetroPulse website	CMAP, the Chicago Community Trust	In collaboration with the Trust, CMAP will update the website that tracks indicators of regional and community quality of life, with emphasis on the indicators used for tracking GO TO 2040 implementation. This website will continue to include Community Data Snapshots describing each of the region's municipalities and City of Chicago Community Areas.	Revise

Rationale for Retain/Revise/Complete/Delete Assessment:
- Because good data becomes more accessible every year from institutions and government agencies, MetroPulse will henceforth narrow its focus to select indicators for monitoring the progress of GO TO 2040 implementation and progress on The Chicago Community Trust's community goals. This revised approach also promises to be more effective for the greatest number of users.

Action	Lead Implementers	Specifics	Retain/Revise/ Complete/Delete
Continually update indicators and other public data that CMAP makes available through the agency's website	CMAP, the Chicago Community Trust	CMAP and the Trust are committed to updating these data online at least every two years. This effort will include the creation and distribution of community data snapshots describing all of the region's municipalities and City of Chicago Community Areas. It will also include creating and updating infographics and analyses that describe progress toward plan implementation.	Revise

Rationale for Retain/Revise/Complete/Delete Assessment:
- Revised to reflect the evolution of CMAP's work with The Chicago Community Trust to develop regional indicators and distribute data to communities.

Action	Lead Implementers	Specifics	Retain/Revise/ Complete/Delete
Conduct outreach activities around regional indicators and Community Data Snapshots through CMAP's Local Technical Assistance program	CMAP, The Chicago Community Trust	Community Data Snapshots will be updated every two years and will evolve in tandem with data used to inform the Existing Conditions Reports, which are interim deliverables for Local Technical Assistance projects. CMAP will distribute Snapshots to communities as part of project implementation activities to update data contained in these reports.	Revise

Rationale for Retain/Revise/Complete/Delete Assessment:
- Revised to reflect the evolution of CMAP's work with The Chicago Community Trust to develop regional indicators and distribute data to communities.

Action	Lead Implementers	Specifics	Retain/Revise/ Complete/Delete
Develop annual GO TO 2040 Implementation Reports	CMAP	CMAP will develop annual "Moving Forward: GO TO 2040 Implementation Reports" that describe actions taken by the agency and others to implement GO TO 2040. Every other year, these reports will alternate between qualitative and quantitative focus. Those years with a quantitative focus will update indicators as new data become available, introduce better data as appropriate, and provide analysis to show progress in plan implementation.	Revise

Rationale for Retain/Revise/Complete/Delete Assessment:
- Revised to reflect the evolution of CMAP's work using regional indicators to measure the success of plan implementation.

Implementation Action Area #2: Facilitate Data Sharing Among Communities Across the Region

Action	Lead Implementers	Specifics	Retain/Revise/ Complete/Delete
Commit to increasing access to information through data sharing and transparency	State (various agencies), counties, municipalities	Some agencies have taken the lead in recent years to make data available online in a publicly-available format. State, county, and municipal agencies should follow this example and post all administrative data online in either database or spreadsheet file formats.	Revise

Implementation Examples:
- The City of Chicago released its data portal in 2011 at https://data.cityofchicago.org/. The website is host to over 900 dataset variations in multiple formats that provide information about City departments, services, facilities and performance.
- Cook County released its data portal in the same year at http://data.cookcountyil.gov/. It similarly provides over 200 datasets for download. These range from foreclosures to budget information.
- The state of Illinois used the same platform as Chicago and Cook County to create its data portal at https://data.illinois.gov/. The state also created data microsites on Rockford, Champaign, Belleville, and the South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association, which can be viewed at the same URL.
- All three of the above portals have been "federated" at https://www.metrochicagodata.org/, which means that data posted on any of the individual sites can be searched and accessed at this new URL.

Rationale for Retain/Revise/Complete/Delete Assessment:
- Many local governments within the region and state departments have made great strides in posting administrative data online since the adoption of GO TO 2040. Perhaps most remarkable are the open data portals created by the City of Chicago and Cook County, both of which provide access to a wide variety of data online.

Action	Lead Implementers	Specifics	Retain/Revise/ Complete/Delete
Increase the number of datasets that governments in the region share with the public	CMAP, The Chicago Community Trust, counties, municipalities, State of Illinois	Develop a guide describing best practices for municipalities and other local governments to make their data public via the web. Emphasize simple, replicable tools that do not require substantial investment of public resources. Investigate the potential of creating a regional repository for aggregating local data, to maximize efficiency of municipal efforts in this regard and to give the public a single destination to find such data. Explore building on the MetroPulse Community Data Snapshots in partnership with units of local government. Build awareness among local officials and residents (e.g., through training sessions) regarding the importance and availability of public data to enhance decision making.	Revise

Rationale for Retain/Revise/Complete/Delete Assessment:
- Revised to reflect the evolution of CMAP's work with The Chicago Community Trust to develop regional indicators and distribute data to communities.

Action	Lead Implementers	Specifics	Retain/Revise/ Complete/Delete
Create and maintain a web directory of data resources relevant to GO TO 2040 implementation	CMAP, The Chicago Community Trust, the federal government, the state, counties, municipalities	The new MetroPulse content should also include a well-maintained directory of data resources by topic. CMAP will organize this directory according to subject area, so communities can have direct access both to data available online and to subject matter experts available to help them interpret these data. Such experts include organizations with regional expertise as well as state and federal agencies	Revise

Rationale for Retain/Revise/Complete/Delete Assessment:
- Revised to reflect the evolution of CMAP's work with The Chicago Community Trust to develop regional indicators and distribute data to communities.

Action	Lead Implementers	Specifics	Retain/Revise/ Complete/Delete
~~Define best practices for regional data sharing and transparency~~	~~CMAP~~	~~Convene a working group of willing governmental and nonprofit data providers (including the state, counties, and regional entities) to lead the development of policy briefs, reports and analyses based on a continuous assessment of existing conditions in our own region and in comparison with best practices identified across regions. Among other things, these deliverables will include technical documentation on server-to-server linkages, machine-readable formats, open APIs (application programming interfaces) and metadata.~~	~~Delete~~

Rationale for Retain/Revise/Complete/Delete Assessment:
- Delete to reflect the evolution of CMAP's work with The Chicago Community Trust to develop regional indicators and distribute data to communities.

Implementation Action Area #3: Provide Direct Technical Assistance and Conduct Data Sharing Pilot Programs

Recommendation: Delete

Rationale: The technology for visualizing and distributing data over the web is constantly changing and evolving. Several units of government have created open data portals over the past several years, including Cook County and the City of Chicago. Each county and municipality will have different goals, indicators, and targets to monitor. As an authoritative source of data and information, CMAP will continue to remain active and engaged in this topic. However prescribing a method to provide technical assistance or creating pilot programs are not effective strategies for increasing access to information across the region, given the diverse needs of our communities. CMAP will also continue to encourage the distribution of public data online by posting original data created by the agency, updating community data snapshots, and periodically refreshing regional indicators data to monitor the implementation of GO TO 2040. comp