## Regional Freight Leadership Task Force

As called for in GO TO 2040 and the subsequent Freight Cluster Drill-Down Report, CMAP and its partners are exploring the potential benefits of creating a Regional Freight Authority to address institutional and funding barriers affecting the freight system in northeastern Illinois. To move this recommendation forward, GO TO 2040 calls for the region to convene freight stakeholders and transportation implementers to discuss potential institutional models for a regional authority, including consideration of revenue sources and governance issues. CMAP has begun convening a Regional Freight Leadership Task Force to meet this call.

One of the GO TO 2040's twelve chapters is devoted to creating a more efficient freight network. It includes a series of specific recommendations to increase freight efficiency and interconnectedness, and strengthen metropolitan Chicago's position as an international center of goods movement and intermodal logistics. The plan states that metropolitan Chicago has not traditionally had a champion to look out for the public interest in freight. National discussions and decisions about the movement of goods tend to be dominated by port cities and states, despite the Chicago region's status as a national hub of truck and rail freight.

The region's lack of a voice has consequences not only at the national level, but also locally. The region's hundreds of local governments make decisions that affect the freight system but often lack coordination, while private freight carriers often have a disincentive to collaborate within a competitive industry. Additionally, traditional revenue sources to support public investment in the transportation system have failed to keep pace with investment needs.

The Regional Freight Leadership Task Force will meet from October 2013 through May 2014 and will produce a final report to the CMAP Board in June 2014. After reaffirming the importance of freight to metropolitan Chicago's economic future and identifying the region's freight challenges, the Task Force will consider how freight institutions have been developed in other regions, potential institutional models, non-capital improvements, and revenue strategies to support freight investment. The Task Force consists of members from the private, public, and non-profit sectors.

Visit http://cmap.is/freight-task-force for meeting materials and related content. Also see http://www.cmap.illinois.gov/mobility/freight for additional information about CMAP's freight priorities.

## Contact

Alex Beata Associate Planner 312-386-8706 abeata@cmap.illinois.gov

## **About CMAP**

The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) is the official regional planning organization for the northeastern Illinois counties of Cook, DuPage, Kane, Kendall, Lake, McHenry, and Will. CMAP developed and now leads the implementation of GO TO 2040, metropolitan Chicago's first comprehensive regional plan in more than 100 years. To address anticipated population growth of more than 2 million new residents, GO TO 2040 establishes coordinated strategies that help the region's 284 communities address transportation, housing, economic development, open space, the environment, and other quality-of-life issues. See www.cmap.illinois.gov for more information.

Revised January 31, 2014