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## Durbin announces \$4.25 million federal grant for Chicago-area regional plan

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A day after the unveiling of a [long-term regional plan](#) for the Chicago area, Sen. Dick Durbin on Thursday announced a \$4.25 million federal grant that will go to the agency that prepared the plan.

The plan, known as Go to 2040, was crafted by the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) after three years of public hearings and research. The plan calls for the region to create compact, walkable communities instead of auto-dependent sprawl, and recommends a series of measures, including a controversial proposed increase in the state gas tax, to achieve its aims.

"Go to 2040 is a forward-thinking plan that will help Chicagoland maintain its position as one of the nation's foremost economic and cultural centers," Durbin, an Illinois Democrat, said in a prepared statement. Durbin attended the launch of the plan Wednesday in Millennium Park.

The grant is being made by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development as part of its "Sustainable Communities Regional Planning" grant program. The program aims to integrate housing, land use, transportation and infrastructure investment in a way that revitalizes the economy and cuts energy use.

In its own prepared statement, CMAP said: "This grant will advance the implementation of the plan by funding the Go to 2040 Local Technical Assistance (LTA) program, which will create new resources for technical assistance and result in a series of innovative, replicable projects in the Chicago region that support livability principles and build capacity in local communities."