



Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

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Policy & Programming **Associate Policy Analyst – ON TO 2050 (APAO50)** **October 18, 2016**

Job Category: Associate
Experience Required: 2 to 5 years
Salary Range: \$54,000 to \$66,933

The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) is seeking to hire an Associate Policy Analyst to conduct research and analysis related to development of the region's next long range, comprehensive plan. CMAP is our region's official comprehensive planning organization. The agency and its partners are developing ON TO 2050, a new comprehensive regional plan to help the seven counties and 284 communities of northeastern Illinois implement strategies that address transportation, housing, economic development, open space, the environment, and other quality-of-life issues. See www.cmap.illinois.gov for more information, and details regarding benefits are at www.cmap.illinois.gov/about/careers#benefits.

Position Description

The Associate Policy Analyst will conduct research and analysis related to development of ON TO 2050, which is the successor to GO TO 2040, and will substantially build on its recommendations, address limited new policy areas, and provide more specific guidance for implementers. Generally, ON TO 2050 will maintain a focus on planning for the interconnected nature of transportation, land use, and housing. This position will assist with or be responsible for research and analysis regarding areas such as emerging state and federal transportation regulations, asset management, demographic trends, developing indicators to measure progress on inclusive growth, identifying strategies to promote reinvestment in disinvested areas, and/or assisting with scenario planning. This position may also contribute to a portion of ON TO 2050 or freight plan work to aid existing conditions analysis or assist policy development. Tasks will include collecting and analyzing data, managing research, producing reports and issuing briefs, monitoring and providing agency direction on federal, state and local public policy, and communicating and coordinating with the agency's partners.

Across these projects and tasks, the policy analyst will be expected to emphasize the recommendations of GO TO 2040 and the refinements identified for ON TO 2050. The ideal candidate will have knowledge of transportation and land use policy at the national and regional level, strengths in managing research and collecting and analyzing data, and an interest in long range planning. Final tasks will be somewhat tailored to the successful applicant's areas of expertise. The candidate should have significant strengths in one or more of the described focus areas and demonstrate a broad base of knowledge about the interactions between infrastructure, land use, and public policy, and overall regional economic development.

Responsibilities

- Collect and analyze data on demographic, land use, transportation, and other regional trends. The applicant should have strong quantitative skills, and a creative approach to problem solving.
- Conduct research and analysis of topics such as asset management, the relationship between land use and transportation investment, promoting environmental justice in transportation planning, intermodal policy, and planning practices at peer MPOs.
- Write CMAP [Policy Updates](#), memos, and other materials that explain data trends and the potential impacts or changes in federal, state, or local public policy.
- Manage or support agency projects that analyze and report on the transportation, land use, and economic issues facing northeastern Illinois and identify challenges and opportunities with transportation, public policy, infrastructure, and technology.
- Present work to relevant CMAP committees and participate in regional groups on these issues as they affect metropolitan Chicago.

Knowledge, Skills and Abilities

- Excellent writing skills and the ability to communicate effectively on issues of public policy and planning.
- Excellent data management skills and the ability to manipulate and analyze large data sources in spreadsheets, databases, and geographic information systems (GIS), as well as the ability to generate findings from these data and present results.
- Demonstrated ability to lead complex research projects and produce reports and issue briefs that are factual, original, compelling, and persuasive.
- Strong communication and interpersonal skills and an ability to complement existing projects via independent or team-based work.
- A demonstrated knowledge of transportation and land use issues and the role they play metropolitan policy. Knowledge of and connections with regional experts in policy and planning.
- An ability to apply theory and empirical evidence toward practical purposes, and a demonstrated interest in the complex connections between transportation, development, and the metropolitan economy.
- Familiarity with the governance structure of northeastern Illinois.

Education and Experience

A Master's degree in Public Policy, Planning, Economics, Public Administration or a related field is required. Two to five years prior work experience in a related field is strongly preferred. Ability to work effectively in an environment using Microsoft Windows and Microsoft Office products, with adaptability to other software. Demonstrated skills with microcomputer databases, spreadsheets, and Arc/GIS geographic information systems.

How to Apply

Please submit cover letter and résumé via the web at www.cmap.illinois.gov/about/careers. Please refer to **Job Code (APAO50)**.

Posting End Date

This posting will close on December 9, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. CST. All applications must be completed and submitted within that timeframe.

The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning is an Equal Opportunity Employer.