



CALL TO ACTION

Currently, the Governor's [proposed budget](#) does not include any money for the Comprehensive Regional Planning Fund, which is essential for the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) and other regional agencies across the state. We are requesting your assistance to seek a remedy with the Governor's office, the General Assembly, and Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT).

The Facts

The Comprehensive Regional Planning Fund is not a legislator initiative, rather it is a fund created in Public Act 95-0677. In 2005, the General Assembly and the Governor passed legislation to create the Regional Planning Board (now named CMAP) by combining the Chicago Area Transportation Study (CATS) and the Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission (NIPC). The bill received broad support from local elected leaders and the civic and business communities to integrate planning for land use and transportation in the seven-county region. The CMAP Board fulfilled the requirements of the 2005 Act, and in 2007 crucial follow-up legislation was passed that clarified some aspects of the Regional Planning Act while providing resources that were not included in the earlier legislation.

The follow-up legislation created a Comprehensive Regional Planning Fund with a \$5 million annual appropriation from the General Revenue Fund. These funds are disbursed by the Illinois Department of Transportation to metropolitan and rural areas across the state as follows: CMAP will receive 70 percent, the Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) elsewhere in Illinois will share 25 percent, and the State's rural planning agencies will share 5 percent. This source of stable, dedicated funding is critical to effective comprehensive planning throughout Illinois.

The loss of funds would do significant harm to the region and the state. The Comprehensive Regional Planning fund provides an essential match of CMAP's federal transportation planning dollars. Without the match, our agency and region would forfeit close to \$11 million in federal planning funds. Furthermore, because CMAP is the region's MPO, the inability to match our federal planning dollars and manage the regional Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) could jeopardize all of the region's federal transportation dollars and projects. This would include all of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds, as well as any new state capital bill intended to leverage federally appropriated dollars.

The fund is also important because it supports non-transportation work. Without it, CMAP would no longer have the resources to continue our planning and policy development for housing, natural resources, water, economic development, and more.

We need your help

Please contact the Governor, his staff, and your legislators to alert them that this loss of funds would do significant harm to the region and the state.

Emphasize the following:

- This cut is a move in the wrong direction when all discussion of capital investments is centered on transparency and performance-based outcomes. CMAP has begun to have a significant impact in helping the public understand how its precious tax dollars are spent for infrastructure, including the stimulus funding. To zero out the Comprehensive Regional Planning Fund would undermine accountability just when Illinois needs it most.
- The fund is critical to the operation of CMAP.
 - Without it, CMAP cannot serve as the region's MPO, and federal transportation dollars and projects would be in jeopardy.
 - Without it, CMAP would lose important planning resources for housing, natural resources, water, economic development, and other important non-transportation issues.

For more information, please contact Jill Leary, CMAP chief of staff (312-386-8662 or jleary@cmap.illinois.gov).