Memorandum of Understanding Between the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning and the Policy Committee Encompassing Transportation Planning and Programming in Northeastern Illinois

This agreement is entered into by the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) created by the Regional Planning Act of 2005 and the Policy Committee serving as the federally designated metropolitan planning organization (MPO) for northeastern Illinois.

The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning and the region's Policy Committee recognize the desirability and absolute necessity of the region's planning for land use and transportation to remain integrated in an open and collaborative process in which socioeconomic and environmental objectives are appropriately considered. Furthermore, the entities affirm their intent to continue and strengthen the cooperative and productive relationship, which currently exists between them.

The two bodies wish to provide a framework that will help our region connect its land use to the transportation system, preserve its environment and sustain its economic prosperity. Both the CMAP board and the Policy Committee must be responsive to the region's residents, working cooperatively with municipalities and counties that maintain authority for local land-use decisions.

INTENT

The signatory boards, by adopting this agreement, recognize the appropriateness and necessity to coordinate and integrate the region's planning for land use and transportation in an open and collaborative process.

The agreement covers the metropolitan planning area as defined by the Regional Planning Act and by the U.S. Department of Transportation planning regulations. Currently, this region includes the counties of Cook, DuPage, Kane, Kendall, Lake, McHenry and Will (MPO planning area includes Aux Sable township in Grundy County). The agreement covers the working relationship between the two boards, whose responsibilities are defined in the Regional Planning Act and federal legislation.

OVERALL RESPONSIBILITIES

CMAP – as stated in the Regional Planning Act, the board shall be responsible for developing and adopting a funding and implementation strategy for an integrated land use and transportation planning process for the northeastern Illinois region. CMAP is also responsible for the development of an integrated comprehensive regional plan.

Policy Committee – as stated in federal legislation, the metropolitan planning organization, in cooperation with the state and public transportation operators, shall develop long-range transportation plans and transportation improvement programs for the metropolitan area.

COMMITTEE REPORTING

CMAP has established a four-level committee structure: policy, advisory, coordinating and working. At the policy level, the CMAP board and the Policy Committee will review staff and committee work to ensure that consistency and consensus are achieved. The Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC), the Council of Mayors, and a committee made up of county officials will together comprise the advisory level. The Council of Mayors will continue its current relationship with the Policy Committee, while at the same time serve as a municipal advisory body to the CMAP board. The Work Program Committee, serving as the Transportation Committee for CMAP, will also continue its current reporting relationship to the Policy Committee. The Policy Committee and the CMAP board will jointly determine the structure and membership of the Transportation Committee. The Transportation Committee will also provide input to the two coordinating level committees of the CMAP board: Planning and Programming. The Policy Committee will appoint the chair and vice-chair of the Transportation Committee. The chair and vice-chair will each serve on one of the coordinating committees. The Policy Committee will establish such committees and task forces as it may deem necessary to effectively carry out the region's transportation planning and programming activities.

STAFF SUPPORT

It is the intent of both the CMAP board and the Policy Committee that the staff of CMAP be responsible for the region's work program that addresses planning for both transportation and land use in northeastern Illinois. The Executive Director of CMAP will ensure that adequate staff support is provided to carry out the transportation planning and programming activities as described in the annual Unified Work Program and approved by the CMAP board and the Policy

Committee. The staff of CMAP will interact with the Policy Committee to ensure that the Policy Committee is fully and meaningfully involved in the development of at least those matters designated by federal law as within the MPO's purview.

CROSS COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Recognizing the need for effective communication, the legislation creating the Regional Planning Board, now known as CMAP, established a non-voting position for the Policy Committee on the CMAP board. To ensure policy level communication between the signatory bodies, the Policy Committee will add two designated members from the CMAP board to its Committee.

APPROVAL PROCESS

Federal regulations require the MPO to approve various plans, programs and related documents. Such plans, programs and related documents will be developed by CMAP staff utilizing the committee structure established by the CMAP Board and the Policy Committee. Recommendations made by the Transportation Committee will be forwarded to the Policy Committee and either the Planning or Programming Committee as appropriate. Recommendations from these committees will be forwarded to the CMAP Board which will also receive input from the Citizens' Advisory Committee, a county officials committee and the Council of Mayors. The CMAP Board will then forward its recommendation with comments to the Policy Committee, which will act upon that recommendation. The Policy Committee will take final action as required by federal law.

The signatory boards recognize the need to meet certain federal requirements within established timeframes. Both boards commit to taking action in a timely fashion such that deadlines will not be jeopardized.

TERM

This Memorandum of Understanding will be reviewed on an annual basis.