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CMAP wins top awards from state planning association

ON TO 2050 will be recognized with the Daniel Burnham Award for a Comprehensive Plan from the American Planning Association-Illinois chapter later this month

CHICAGO, September 9, 2019 – The [Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning](http://www.cmap.illinois.gov) (CMAP) and its planning efforts will be recognized with four awards from the Illinois chapter of the American Planning Association (APA-IL) at its annual conference this month.

The awards include recognition for [ON TO 2050](#) -- the Chicago region's new comprehensive plan adopted in October 2018 -- with the top prize, the Daniel Burnham Award for a Comprehensive Plan. The award honors America's most famous planner, Daniel Burnham, for his contributions to the planning profession and to a greater awareness of the benefits of good planning.

Over more than three years of plan development, CMAP worked with dozens of partners, stakeholders, resource groups, and engaged more than 100,000 residents of northeastern Illinois to create a vision to help the region and its communities achieve prosperity together.

"The development of ON TO 2050 would not have been possible without the efforts of many, many others throughout the Chicago region and everyone at the agency," said CMAP executive director Erin Aleman. "We are honored by this recognition and will continue to work toward implementation of the plan's recommendations for a more inclusive, resilient, and thriving future."

The project's innovative online presentation – available at www.cmap.illinois.gov/2050 -- creates a conversation with the public that promotes the significance of planning. Its three core [principles](#) of Inclusive Growth, Resilience, and Prioritized Investment provide a framework that informs each of the plan's recommendations. Through [profiles](#) of nearly 20 residents whose lives would improve through the plan's recommendations, [interactive data](#) and [maps](#), [implementation matrices](#), and a fully ADA-accessible presentation, ON TO 2050 provides a visionary approach to comprehensive regional planning for an area that includes seven counties, 284 municipalities, and 8.5 million people.

Several other CMAP-supported plans will be recognized by APA-IL this year including three plans developed in partnership with communities through the agency's Local Technical Assistance (LTA) program. Awards to be given during the APA-IL conference include:

Public Outreach: North Lawndale Quality-of-Life Plan

CMAP worked with the North Lawndale Community Coordinating Council (NLCCC) and Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) Chicago to create a custom planning process to meet the needs of the [North Lawndale](#) community. Over three years, planners spent hundreds of hours not only hearing from residents, but creating ownership and understanding around current opportunities and future plans for the neighborhood. An annual community planning summit drew hundreds of residents whose voices and concerns were used to shape the final plan and early implementation steps.

Strategic Plan: The North River Communities Neighborhood Plan

CMAP, along with the North River Commission (NRC) and Urban Land Institute Chicago, worked to develop a strategic plan for Albany Park, North Park, and Irving Park – an area that is among the most ethnically diverse in the country. [The North River Communities Neighborhood Plan](#) will guide partners in a coordinated effort to build on the best elements of the area's heritage and assets while taking proactive steps to meet anticipated challenges. The plan establishes a strategic framework for actions that NRC and its partners can take to address issues of pressing importance to the community, such as housing affordability, access to the Chicago River and parks, transit oriented development, and environmental quality.

Best Practice: Fox River Corridor Plan

Working with McHenry and Lake Counties, CMAP developed this multijurisdictional project to help communities unlock the Fox River's potential for future generations. The [Fox River Corridor Plan](#) builds on planning efforts in the communities of Algonquin and Carpentersville to provide a consistent framework for planning decisions along the river, including natural resource protection, bicycle and pedestrian access, parks and recreation, and appropriate economic development. It includes a climate vulnerability assessment -- an innovative planning approach that demonstrates how to incorporate climate science in local planning, which is woven into the plan's recommendations. This effort was made possible through funding from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and in collaboration with the American Planning Association's Hazards Planning Center, Illinois State Climatologist, and Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant.

CMAP and partners will accept these awards at the 2019 APA-IL [State Conference](#) in Evanston on Wednesday, September 25. The next joint call for projects for the CMAP LTA and RTA Community Planning programs will run from September 17 through October 17 in conjunction with the [Small Plans, Big Ideas](#) forum series – six events held around the region to connect local leaders and share how ON TO 2050 can make a difference in every Chicagoland community.

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About CMAP

The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) is our region's comprehensive planning organization. The agency and its partners developed and are now implementing ON TO 2050, a new long-range 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.