



# Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

Agenda Item No. 5.0

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## MEMORANDUM

**To:** MPO Policy Committee

**From:** Angela Manning-Hardimon  
Deputy Executive Director, Finance and Administration

**Date:** January 2, 2020

**Re:** FY 2021 UWP Call for Projects

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Unified Work Program (UWP) federal funding is available for transportation planning and projects within a metropolitan area. For the CMAP area, it is anticipated that federal funding of approximately \$18.8 million, and with matching funds of approximately \$4.7 million, will provide total cost available for UWP planning and projects of \$23.5 million. FY 2021 funding reflects an increase of approximately 3%, or \$813,804, of federal and local match dollars as compared to FY 2020.

The Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) has the primary responsibility for preparing the UWP for its metropolitan area. The federal guidelines state that all planning and implementing agencies must be an integral part of the planning process and participate in the development of the UWP. In the CMAP region, the UWP Committee serves as the project selection body for this process. The committee is chaired by IDOT, who votes in case of a tie. The membership is comprised of a representative from each of the transit service boards (CTA, Metra and Pace), the City of Chicago, RTA, CMAP, a representative from the counties, and a mayor representing the Council of Mayors. In addition, non-voting members are representatives from Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Transit Administration (FTA), and Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA).

The UWP Committee establishes program priorities and selects core and competitive proposals. The UWP Committee recommends and seeks concurrence from the Transportation Committee, Coordinating Committee, CMAP Board and the MPO Policy Committee for core and competitive proposals and budgets. The following UWP priorities with the regional priorities described in the ON TO 2050 Plan will guide the FY2021 Call for Projects selection process:

- **Planning Work toward Implementation of ON TO 2050 Regionally Significant Projects, Including Supportive Land Use.** The continuation of work to further ON TO 2050's list of fiscally constrained regionally significant projects is another planning area. Potential work includes planning for the inclusion of transit or bike/ped components as part of major highway projects, advancing projects through discretionary funding programs, and planning for supportive land use around transportation, among other efforts.
- **Local Technical Assistance and the Formation of Collaborative Planning Efforts.** A major emphasis area of ON TO 2050 is providing targeted technical assistance to local governments, particularly to interpret and implement the regional plan's recommendations at the local level. This may include planning for compact, walkable communities, including transportation investments to support infill development, as well as providing for alternative modes of transportation. Planning for joint efforts to provide local transportation services is also included here.
- **Modernization of the Public Transit System.** ON TO 2050's transit recommendations focus on making the transit system more competitive. Actions include developing policies for emerging technology to support and complement the transit system, studies to support improving the speed, frequency, and reliability of the transit system, revising highway design guidance to facilitate transit access, studies to support further fare and service coordination, and improving the effectiveness and accessibility of demand response services, particularly for persons with disabilities.
- **Leveraging the Transportation System to Promote Inclusive Growth.** ON TO 2050 is broadly concerned with ensuring economic opportunity is available to all residents of the region. The transportation system plays a role in this, as for example, research shows that minority residents have significantly longer commutes than others and transportation fees can weigh most on lower-income persons. Proposals should address any of the numerous facets of equity and transportation identified in ON TO 2050, such as developing culturally-relevant outreach methods, establishing performance measures that track progress towards reflecting community demographics, and demonstrating the impact of public engagement on project outcomes. They may also include planning to support transportation system access for those with disabilities, studying strategies to reduce burden of transportation fees, fares, and taxes on lower-income populations, and exploring new ways to provide targeted, flexible and/or on-demand transportation options in low-income or low-density areas, or for people with disabilities.
- **Harnessing Technology to Improve Travel and Anticipating Future Impacts.** Existing technologies can improve the performance of the transportation network, while in the long term, emerging technologies like connected and autonomous vehicles and private mobility services may have both positive and negative

impacts on the region, such as increasing competition for curb space or causing excess vehicle miles traveled. Planning projects under this priority would address studying and implementing further coordination of traffic operations using technology, establishing pricing and regulatory frameworks for connected and autonomous vehicles and developing pilot projects, and adapting the public way to emerging technology and new mobility, among other efforts

The process for review and approval of the FY 2021 UWP programs is as follows:

- FY2021 Call for Projects issued January 2, 2020.
- Both Core and Competitive proposals are due on January 30, 2020.
- All proposals will be forwarded to the UWP Committee on February 4 with presentations of the proposals at the Committee meeting on February 11.
- The Competitive proposals will be scored by the UWP Committee as in years past, based upon the alignment with the regional priorities listed above. The scoring of the competitive proposals will be due on February 28. CMAP staff will calculate the Committee’s rankings of the Competitive proposals.
- Based on the available funds for the FY 2021 UWP program, CMAP staff will develop a proposed program recommendation to the UWP Committee which considers (1) how the Core proposals meet the federal requirements; (2) alignment with the proposed priorities of ON TO 2050; (3) the requested level of funding; (4) and if applicable, previous years’ expenditure level of Core project funds and (5) the rankings of the Competitive proposals.
- The Committee will meet on March 11 to adopt the proposed FY 2021 program.
- The FY 2021 program will be presented at the April 3 Transportation Committee and the April 8 Coordinating Committee meetings for adoption.
- Draft of the UWP book provided to IDOT on May 1.
- Following the UWP program adoption by the MPO Policy Committee and the CMAP Board adoption in June, CMAP will draft contracts for the approved programs according to the following schedule (these dates should be considered with developing proposals):
  - Programs supporting staff and operating costs (normally core proposals) will be available during the State FY 2021 starting July 1, 2020. All funds will need to be expended by June 30, 2021.
  - Programs supporting consulting contracts and the competitive programs will be available for a period of three years—July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2023.

The schedule for the approval of the FY 2021 UWP process is as follows:

**Call for Proposals**

Call for Proposals	January 2, 2020
All Proposals Due (Core and Competitive)	January 30, 2020

### Proposal presentations

UWP Meeting - Presentation of Proposals	February 11, 2020
UWP Committee members rank proposals	Due to CMAP February 28, 2020
CMAP prepares committee ranked proposals with funding allocation	March 4, 2020
UWP Meeting - Adopt FY 2020 Program	March 11, 2020

### Committee Approval

Transportation Committee considers approval of FY 2021 UWP to MPO Policy Committee	April 3, 2020
CMAP Coordinating Committee considers approval of FY 2021 UWP to CMAP Board	April 8, 2020
Draft of the UWP book to IDOT	May 1, 2020
CMAP Board considers approval of proposed FY 2021 UWP	June 10, 2020
MPO Policy Committee considers approval of proposed FY 2021 UWP	June 11, 2020
Final UWP Document Released	June 2020

ACTION REQUESTED: Information

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