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State of the Region event to address key issues in northeastern Illinois, reveal results of public opinion survey

CHICAGO, October 4, 2021 — The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) will host its first-ever [State of the Region event](#), featuring results of a new public opinion poll and discussion of key issues facing northeastern Illinois. With a theme of Prosperity with Purpose, the event will focus on progress toward building an inclusive and thriving northeastern Illinois.

The virtual event, on Thursday, October 7, will include a keynote address by public health expert and medical executive Dr. Suzet McKinney. Dr. McKinney, principal and director of life sciences at Sterling Bay, will discuss how life sciences can provide good-paying jobs and help the regional economy recover from the pandemic.

“I’m thrilled to join State of the Region, together with other leaders who are passionate about making northeastern Illinois stronger,” Dr. McKinney said. “By solidifying our region’s status as a top center for biotech and the life sciences, I know we can create jobs, spur a more equitable economic recovery and offer opportunity to all people of northeastern Illinois.”

Erin Aleman, executive director of CMAP, will deliver a state of the region address highlighting results of CMAP’s new public opinion survey. The findings reveal residents’ attitudes toward key quality-of-life issues and identify successes and challenges across our region. They also uncover how COVID-19 has affected practices and preferences around transportation, open space and more.

“We look forward to sharing these illuminating results and showcasing progress toward achieving the goals of the [ON TO 2050 plan](#),” Aleman said. “I am confident that attendees will leave State of the Region both inspired by the region’s achievements and ready to work together to tackle deep challenges.”

The program also includes short videos of residents around the region and a ceremony for the winners of CMAP’s [2021 Regional Excellence Awards](#).

All are welcome to attend, including policymakers, elected officials, municipal staff, academics, nonprofit leaders, members of the media, students and residents of northeastern Illinois.

The event will be held on Zoom from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. on October 7. Attendees should [register](#) in advance.

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About CMAP

The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) is northeastern Illinois' comprehensive planning organization. The agency and its partners developed ON TO 2050, a long-range plan to help the seven counties and 284 communities of our region address transportation, equity, environmental and other quality-of-life issues. Visit CMAP's website for more information.