



Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

433 West Van Buren Street
Suite 450
Chicago, IL 60607

312-454-0400
cmap.illinois.gov

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Dear CMAP Board, elected officials, community leaders, partners, and stakeholders,

Northeastern Illinois and its communities have experienced drastic and defining changes over the past four years since adopting the region's long-term comprehensive plan, ON TO 2050. A global pandemic disrupted economies, deepened inequities, and changed the ways people move throughout the region. But northeastern Illinois also has new opportunities to reimagine transportation with the unprecedented funding from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

Given this moment, the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning's ON TO 2050 plan update provides our communities and partners with a valuable snapshot, capturing our progress toward a more inclusive and thriving region. We evaluated new data and shifts to help us refine our planning approach and emphasize the value of ON TO 2050 and the path it lays out. These experiences have validated the plan's core principles of inclusive growth, resilience, and prioritized investment. Our core focus areas remain transportation, climate change, and a competitive regional economy.

Transportation touches everything. It is about people, quality of life, equity, opportunity, and jobs. It's about keeping people safe. It is about our economic strength and resiliency. It's about our environment and climate.

The ON TO 2050 plan and this update considers all these factors. It continues to serve as our region's roadmap, guiding decision-making and investments for our seven counties and 284 communities

I encourage you to read the following pages for an update on the state of our region today and progress toward our goals. You'll find key data findings, including important changes in our forecasted population, transportation investments, and funding resources.

Lastly, while CMAP is responsible for facilitating this plan update as our region's metropolitan planning organization and regional planning agency, it is northeastern Illinois' plan for the future and our region's 8.6 million residents. We all must work together to implement the strategies in order to achieve our collective vision of an inclusive and thriving region.

Sincerely,

Erin Aleman
Executive Director, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning