

Draft State Agenda, Spring 2012

During the 2012 session of the Illinois General Assembly, CMAP is pursuing the following legislative priorities as appropriate with our regional delegation, relevant state agencies, the Governor and his staff, and CMAP partners. The agenda was based on the adopted GO TO 2040 plan, current priorities of the Governor and the General Assembly, and discussions with key leadership and CMAP partners. Additionally, many issues arise during the legislative session that are not listed below and will be addressed using the State Legislative Framework document.

CMAP Funding

Secure a stable and dedicated funding source for CMAP. The legislation creating CMAP called for the agency to produce a comprehensive land use and transportation plan for our region and a dedicated funding source to enable CMAP to perform its duties. Last year, the budget implementation bill dissolved the Comprehensive Regional Planning Fund (CRPF), making CMAP reliant solely on an annual Road Fund grant from IDOT, which sharply limits our future scope in other vital non-transportation activities. CMAP received \$3.5 million from the General Revenue Fund for comprehensive planning. A portion of that served as the state match for federal transportation funding, with the remainder supporting CMAP's statutorily required non-transportation activities. This issue needs to be addressed to ensure that CMAP has a stable, dedicated funding source to effectively implement the comprehensive vision of GO TO 2040.

Support legislative initiatives dedicated to funding state and regional water planning. In 2006, the State provided funding for state and regional water planning. This funding depleted steadily as the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) continued to adjust to budget reductions due to limited state revenues. CMAP supports increasing funding to IDNR with new revenues that will support state and regional water resources planning, with a portion to be directed to the 11-county CMAP water planning area.

Invest Strategically in Transportation

GO TO 2040 recommends that transportation funding decisions be based on transparent evaluation criteria, utilizing performance measures developed by the State, MPOs and the region's transportation stakeholders. CMAP will support and if necessary propose legislative initiatives that promote performance-driven criteria rather than the use of the arbitrary formula currently being used to determine transportation investment decisions.

CMAP will support legislative initiatives to increase the existing 19 cents per gallon gasoline tax and index the tax to inflation. A portion of these proceeds should be devoted to transit. Additionally, CMAP will support legislation to permit and encourage innovative transportation finance measures that reflect the marginal costs of using the system.

Regional Freight Authority

GO TO 2040 recommends that a Regional Freight Authority be created to address the regional freight needs in northeastern Illinois. CMAP will monitor legislative activity to address freight needs in

northeastern Illinois and the state. CMAP will facilitate and convene meetings between CMAP's Freight Committee and the key senate proponent and to consider any additional meetings between CMAP, stakeholders and the legislative sponsor to discuss ways to incorporate GO TO 2040 plan recommendations into any developing freight issues.

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