



News from the

Chicago Metropolitan
Agency for Planning

233 South Wacker Drive
Suite 800
Chicago, IL 60606

312-454-0400 (voice)
312-454-0411 (fax)
www.cmap.illinois.gov

Press Contacts: Tina Fassett Smith (312-386-8786 or tsmith@cmap.illinois.gov)
Melissa Silverberg (312-386-8641 or msilverberg@cmap.illinois.gov)

Newly adopted ON TO 2050 plan sets course for metropolitan Chicago

Its core principles -- Inclusive Growth, Resilience, and Prioritized Investment -- will help communities prosper all across the region

CHICAGO, October 10, 2018 -- Leaders from across the metropolitan Chicago region today voted to adopt ON TO 2050, the new comprehensive long-range plan to help communities and the region thrive.

The plan became official in a vote this morning of the Board and Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Policy Committee of the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP), immediately preceding a launch of the plan's implementation phase at an event in Chicago's Millennium Park. Now the agency and its partners will begin the work of putting ON TO 2050 strategies into action for the seven counties and 284 communities of Chicagoland.

"Metropolitan Chicago is not alone in seeking regional solutions to its most pressing, long-term problems," said National League of Cities executive director Clarence E. Anthony, the event's keynote speaker. "As CMAP analysis in ON TO 2050 confirms, this region has seen some challenges recently. The plan contains strategic recommendations that, once implemented, can point toward more opportunities for all residents and communities to achieve their full potential."

In the interactive, multimedia plan at www.cmap.illinois.gov/2050, ON TO 2050's goals and recommendations are based on three core principles:

Inclusive Growth: Grow the economy through opportunity for all.

Resilience: Prepare for rapid changes, both known and unknown.

Prioritized Investment: Target resources to maximize benefits.

As with many U.S. metropolitan areas, access to opportunity and prosperity in metropolitan Chicago often follows racial lines. Among many interactive charts, ON TO 2050 includes one showing disparate outcomes for education, employment, and income by race or ethnicity for the nation's 25 largest metropolitan areas. To compare our region with others, visit www.cmap.illinois.gov/2050/disparate-outcomes.

"Research shows how regions that grow inclusively have longer, stronger periods of prosperity and fewer, shorter periods of stagnation," said Joseph C. Szabo, CMAP executive director. "ON TO 2050 is about achieving prosperity together. As a region, we need to collaborate on solutions that can open doors for residents to succeed, especially in communities where opportunity hasn't knocked for generations."

The plan has five chapters -- Community, Prosperity, Environment, Governance, and Mobility - - with goals that drive specific recommended actions, each of which supports one or more of the core principles:

Community: Strengthening Where We Live. These recommendations support Inclusive Growth by rebuilding communities to create opportunity close to where people live, increasing local revenues, and enhancing local government capacity and expertise; support Resilience by preserving high quality natural areas, incorporating sustainable practices into all development, and leveraging data and expertise to plan for market realities, infrastructure needs, and fiscal stability; and support Prioritized Investment by carefully expanding our built environment to ensure fiscal, economic and environmental sustainability.

Prosperity: Growing the Economy. These recommendations support Inclusive Growth by broadening opportunities for innovation and promoting pathways for upward economic mobility; support Resilience by taking a regional approach to economic development and better preparing the workforce for future economic shifts; and support Prioritized Investment by coordinating economic and workforce development activities.

Environment: Bridging Natural and Built Assets. These recommendations support Inclusive Growth by growing the ability of vulnerable populations to respond to environmental challenges and improving environmental conditions and access to nature for those populations; support Resilience by planning for anticipated future impacts, protecting residents from risk, and promoting gray and green infrastructure that provides essential services and can adapt to changes in climate and technology; and support Prioritized Investment by using limited financial resources in a strategic and efficient way, maintaining existing infrastructure, and securing new revenues for needed enhancements.

Governance: Leading Effectively Together. These recommendations support Inclusive Growth through tax policy reforms and technical assistance to communities; support Resilience through improved long-term finances and increased collaboration across jurisdictions; and support Prioritized Investment through data-driven decision making for services and infrastructure.

Mobility: Achieving a Safe and Reliable System for Tomorrow. These recommendations support Inclusive Growth by improving mobility options that spur economic opportunity for low income communities, people of color, and people with disabilities; support Resilience by ensuring that infrastructure can adapt to changes in climate and technology; and support Prioritized Investment by using resources to efficiently maintain existing infrastructure while securing new revenues for needed enhancements.

"We have identified the region's persistent challenges, and they require long-term solutions," said Gerald R. Bennett, CMAP Board chairman and mayor of suburban Palos Hills. "The reasons our progress has stalled are complex but by no means irreversible. By working together

to systematically invest in our residents, infrastructure, and communities, we can make tangible progress toward broad, lasting prosperity and quality of life."

To meet federal requirements, ON TO 2050 sets clear priorities for transportation investments, including a carefully selected set of "[regionally significant projects](#)" that reinforce ON TO 2050 principles and goals. Although organized into [expressway projects](#), [transit projects](#), [arterial projects](#), and [unconstrained projects](#), many of the recommended investments have multimodal elements and benefits. For example, many expressway and arterial projects include plans for improving transit service and bicycle/pedestrian access.

At the Millennium Park launch event, CMAP also plans to announce that grants from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation and The Chicago Community Trust will fund the agency's technical assistance to capacity constrained communities, selected because their ability to effectively develop and implement local plans is hampered by a shortage of staff or other resources.

--END--

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.