



MEMORANDUM

To: CMAP Economic Development and Land Use Committees

From: CMAP Staff

Date: December 2, 2015

Re: Update on select snapshots and strategy papers

Work this fiscal year toward developing the [next regional plan](#) includes data compilation on existing conditions and trends in the region as well as the exploration of potential policies and strategies on key topics. Specifically, [snapshot reports](#) will be concise, data-driven examinations of existing conditions and trends on general topics such as the region's demographics, economic clusters, infill and transit oriented development (TOD), transportation network, and freight system. [Strategy papers](#) will refine or define agency direction on topics including reinvestment and infill; tax policies and land use trends; targeted infrastructure investment; housing supply and affordability; undeveloped, agricultural, and open lands; climate resilience; green infrastructure; inclusive growth; transportation system funding concepts; highway operations; asset condition; and transit modernization. This memo provides updates on snapshot reports and strategy papers that are related to the work of the Economic Development and Land Use Committees.

Snapshot Reports

Demographics Snapshot

The demographic snapshot will provide a data-driven portrait of the region's population and will include essential information such as population growth rates; the age, race/ethnicity, and migration and citizenship status of residents; and socioeconomic characteristics about people and households. Using historical data as well as the most current statistics, we will compare regional trends with trends in peer regions and nationwide. Identifying population trends and socioeconomic characteristics of the people in our region is a fundamental step in better understanding many issues in the next long-range plan. The snapshot will provide the data necessary for CMAP and numerous other organizations to develop and implement strategies, policies, and programs that further GO TO 2040's goals for sustainable regional prosperity.

Staff is in the first phase of work, identifying regional trends in population growth, age, race and ethnicity, immigration, household income, and educational attainment. These trends are also being compared to the Chicago metropolitan region's peers. Staff will present initial findings to the Economic Development and Land Use Committees in early 2016.

Economic Clusters and Trends Snapshot

The regional economic clusters and trends snapshot will provide an overview of key economic indicators and trends in the Chicago region's economy, identify trends in the region's industry clusters by using cluster identification methods created for the U.S. Cluster Mapping Project, and discuss key findings of past research that links regional coordination, tax policy, land use, and transportation planning to regional economic development. The snapshot will lay a foundation for understanding the region's economy as the next plan is developed.

In September, CMAP staff presented a draft outline of the snapshot to the Economic Development committee and received feedback. CMAP staff published policy updates in [September](#) and [October](#) that explore the U.S. Cluster Mapping methodology in depth. These policy updates will help guide development of the cluster section of the snapshot. Staff is currently developing draft snapshot text, which will be presented to the Economic Development Committee in January. Staff anticipates publishing the final report in March 2016.

Infill and TOD Trends Snapshot

This snapshot will provide an overview of existing conditions and trends in infill and TOD in the region, focusing on development since 2000. As a first step, the snapshot will evaluate regional progress towards the Plan Update target using the Plan Update indicator (share of new development occurring within the existing municipal envelope). The snapshot will supplement this analysis with an examination of demographic and built environment indicators, such as population and households, density, employment, rentable building area, and building permits. The snapshot's findings will help inform other CMAP work, particularly research on how to support GO TO 2040's broad recommendation to reinvest in the region's existing communities.

Staff is in the first phase of analysis, which focuses on identifying trends in infill development. More specifically, staff has examined trends in infill as measured by the Plan Update indicator, and is in the process of analyzing infill trends using additional indicators. Subsequent work will focus on transit station areas in greater detail. Staff will present initial findings to the Economic Development and Land Use Committees in early 2016.

Policy Updates

Select findings of the snapshots will be previewed in a series of short policy updates to be released after the release of the new 2011-14 American Community Survey 5-year dataset. This dataset allows the region to assess progress on a variety of metrics for smaller geographies and in greater detail on the region's population; the 2011-14 dataset also represents the first opportunity to compare to change since 2005-09. These policy updates will highlight initial major findings of the analyses being completed for each snapshot.



Strategy Papers

Agricultural, Natural, and Open Lands Strategy Paper

GO TO 2040 focused on encouraging compact infill development, particularly within existing communities. The Plan also outlined several strategies for those areas of the region that currently remain as open land, in agricultural use, and/or contain important natural resources, but did not include a clear message regarding potential development of those areas. This strategy paper will begin by evaluating where and how both development and preservation efforts have occurred. The study area will be defined by the location of agricultural lands, green infrastructure lands, and remaining open land areas, predominantly in Kane, Kendall, Lake, McHenry, and Will counties. This information will then be used for a more informed evaluation of the existing message, policies, and programs currently in place and exploration of new strategies and opportunities.

A resource group including representatives from both the land preservation and development sides is currently being formed to help guide the strategy paper. Preliminary results of the existing conditions analysis of development and preservation efforts will be shared with the Land Use Committee in early 2016; a draft of the strategy paper will be shared in mid-2016.

Climate Resilience Strategy Paper

The goal of this strategy paper is to develop policy recommendations that help prepare the region and its communities for climate change. In recognition of the interconnected nature of built, social, and natural systems, the strategy paper will provide a framework for regional partners to transform green and gray infrastructure networks, decision-making processes, and planning to be more responsive to changing and uncertain future climate conditions.

To date, the climate resilience resource group has developed a definition and principles for our vision for regional resilience. CMAP staff has created a memo that outlines climate changes in northeastern Illinois, the relevance of climate change to the agency's priority areas, and a summary of CMAP's past work on climate change issues, which will serve as a foundation for moving the agency toward a climate resilience framework. CMAP staff plan to present initial policy directions to the Economic Development and Land Use Committees in early 2016.

Inclusive Growth Strategy Paper

According to recent research, regions that foster more inclusive growth patterns appear to experience greater economic growth. Inclusive growth strategies aim to ensure that economic growth and prosperity are shared across all segments of the population. Promoting inclusive growth requires a broad platform that builds on many aspects of CMAP's work, including transportation, housing, and economic development strategies. This strategy paper will outline and evaluate potential strategies and policy directions for the next plan that will build towards a more inclusive regional economy.



This project is in the first phase of work, outlining a vision for an inclusive region and creating a framework for CMAP to incorporate inclusive growth into its work. The resource group has met once, and a second meeting is planned for December. Opportunities to coordinate with related regional efforts on equity and inclusive growth are being explored. The project will present at the Economic Development and Land Use Committees in early 2016.

ACTION REQUESTED: Information

