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Five Alternative Futures could shape the Chicago region by 2050

Now through August, residents can give feedback for the ON TO 2050 regional plan via web surveys, kiosks, workshops, forums, and social media

CHICAGO, April 5, 2017 -- Starting now, every northeastern Illinois resident can comment on five distinct outcomes for the region to inform the ON TO 2050 comprehensive plan in development by the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP). An extensive "Alternative Futures" public engagement phase runs from April through August.

The five futures -- Changed Climate, Walkable Communities, Innovative Transportation, Transformed Economy, and Constrained Resources -- describe a variety of intertwined factors that could significantly shape our region for decades to come. Based on more than a year of analysis by CMAP and its partners, the Alternative Futures ask residents to consider:

- What if impacts of climate change have intensified by 2050?
- What if more people choose walkable, mixed-used communities by 2050?
- What if new technologies enhance transportation by 2050?
- What if the economy has been transformed by 2050?
- What if public resources are further constrained by 2050?

CMAP will feature one of the futures each month from April through August. ON TO 2050, slated for adoption in October 2018, will reflect input collected via various methods -- including online surveys, public workshops, topical forums, and kiosks at locations across the seven-county region. Details are at www.cmap.illinois.gov/onto2050/futures.

"These five futures are based on variables that tend to overlap," said Joe Szabo, CMAP executive director, "so we won't be asking people to choose one over the others. The futures are also not predictions of what will happen. Instead, by discussing what *could* happen, as a region we can plan more effectively to meet potential challenges and opportunities."

Starting in April with [Changed Climate](#), CMAP will post a new web survey for one future per month. Residents can explore ON TO 2050 [kiosks](#) located in Cook, DuPage, Lake, Kane, Kendall, McHenry and Will counties. Other feedback methods include [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) via the hashtag #2050BigIdeas.

People may also provide feedback in person at dozens of [Alternative Futures workshops](#) CMAP will convene throughout the region to discuss the Alternative Futures. To arrange one for your community or group, email onto2050@cmap.illinois.gov.

In addition, CMAP and partners will spark debate by co-hosting five [Alternative Futures forums](#), which conclude an ON TO 2050 series held around the region during the past year:

Changed Climate. "Thriving in a Changing Climate," Thursday, April 6, 3:00 to 4:30 p.m., Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum (co-sponsor with Chicago Academy of Sciences), 2430 N. Cannon Dr., South Gallery, Chicago.

Walkable Communities. "Where We'll Live in 2050," Thursday, May 4, 6:00 to 7:30 p.m., Chicago Architecture Foundation (co-sponsor), 224 S. Michigan Ave., Lecture Hall, Chicago.

Innovative Transportation. "Harnessing Technology for Future Mobility," Thursday, June 22, 9:00 to 10:30 a.m., Illinois Institute of Technology (co-sponsor), 3201 S. State St., McCormick Tribune Campus Center, Chicago.

Transformed Economy. "The Future of Economic Opportunity," July 2017, Homewood. Details to follow.

Constrained Resources. "Doing More with Less in 2050," August 2017, Libertyville. Details to follow.

"By planning inclusively, we can grow inclusively," said Szabo. "We look forward to hearing about residents' ideas, hopes, and concerns. This public feedback is essential so ON TO 2050 can help improve metropolitan Chicago's quality of life and economic prosperity for today's 8.5 million residents and for generations to come."

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About CMAP. The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning is the region's comprehensive planning organization. The agency and its partners are developing ON TO 2050, a new comprehensive regional plan to help the seven counties and 284 communities of northeastern Illinois to 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.