



# Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

Agenda Item No. 12.0

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## MEMORANDUM

To: CMAP Transportation Committee

From: CMAP Staff

Date: September 22, 2017

Re: State Legislative Update

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On July 6, 2017, after more than two years without a state budget, the Illinois General Assembly passed a year-long budget bill during the summertime special session. Though Public Act 100-0021—the fiscal year (FY) 2018 appropriation—addresses the backlog of unpaid bills, the backlog remains at \$14.8 billion because the state does not have cash on hand to pay for all of its debts along with ongoing operations. The legislation assumes nearly \$1.5 billion in savings on pensions contained in PA 100-0023, as well as a 10 percent reduction in state spending across the board—though IDOT remains funded at its current level. The budget included appropriations for metropolitan planning and research, funding CMAP and Illinois’ 15 other metropolitan planning organizations.

As a part of the budget negotiations, the state individual income tax rate rose from 3.75 to 4.95 percent, while the corporate income tax rate rose from 5.25 to 7 percent via Public Act 100-0022. The Local Government Distributive Fund (LGDF) will be reduced by 10 percent for FY18 only. In addition to state agency cuts, the budget affects funds that are vital to implementing GO TO 2040, such as the Public Transportation Fund. Though the budget impasse has ended, the FY18 budget does not address long-term transportation investment needs nor does it provide necessary reforms to modernize or improve equity in the state tax system. Its very implementation rested on education funding reform—a bill that began as SB1 before receiving an amendatory veto, and ultimately passed in late August as a separate bill entirely, SB1947, now PA 100-0465.

In between negotiations, the General Assembly passed and the Governor signed a number of bills of interest to CMAP and partners. To highlight:

- PA 100-0107 (SB3): *Eases the consolidation process for townships and expands the DuPage, Lake, and McHenry County government consolidation model.*

- PA 100-0420 (SB1029): *Appropriates a portion of the Open Space Land Acquisition and Development Fund (OSLAD) for stewardship and maintenance of natural areas throughout Illinois.*
- PA 100-0106 (HB607): *Authorizes townships outside of Cook County to eliminate township road districts by ballot referendum.*
- PA 100-0341 (HB791): *Prohibits local governments from issuing restrictions on autonomous vehicles on its roadways.*

In addition, the CMAP live streaming bill—HB2538, now PA 100-0479—was signed into law by the governor on September 8<sup>th</sup>. The law requires CMAP to stream all board meetings and maintain an archive of the meetings online for public viewing. The effective date is January 1, 2018, and staff has been researching options for implementation.

The General Assembly will reconvene for fall veto session, October 24-26 and November 7-9.

Of note, a number of legislators have announced their plans to retire or to not seek reelection upon completion of their term. From the CMAP region, Leader Christine Radogno (R-Lemont), Representative Steven Andersson (R-Geneva), Representative Patricia Bellock (R-Westmont), Representative Mike Fortner (R-West Chicago), Representative Emily McAsey (D-Romeoville), Representative Elaine Nekritz (D-Buffalo Grove), Representative Robert Pritchard (R-Sycamore), Representative Carol Sente (D-Vernon Hills), and Representative Barbara Wheeler (R-Crystal Lake) will retire or have already retired. Other members will seek different offices, including Senator Daniel Biss (D-Evanston), as well as Representative Scott Drury (D-Highwood), Representative Laura Fine (D-Glenview), Representative Cynthia Soto (D-Chicago), and Representative Juliana Stratton (D-Chicago).

**ACTION REQUESTED:** Information

## September 2017 Legislative Summary

| Subject  | Bill          | Summary  | Status                                  | Agency Position |
|--|---------------|--|---|-----------------|
| <b>EXPAND AND IMPROVE PARKS AND OPEN SPACE</b> |               |  |   |                 |
| Natural area stewardship                       | <b>SB1029</b> | <p><b>Sen. Jason Barickman (R-Bloomington)</b></p> <p>SB1029 creates the Illinois Land Conservation and Stewardship Grant Program and authorizes the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) to make grants for stewardship of natural areas across Illinois using money in the Natural Areas Acquisition Fund. IDNR can grant these funds to conservation organizations to provide basic maintenance and stewardship to open areas. The grants will be subject to approval by the General Assembly.</p> <p>The legislation fulfills three of GO TO 2040's conservation recommendations by moving the state closer to protecting conservation funds from agency sweeps, building capacity in private conservation organizations, and providing funding for stewardship of vital natural areas.</p> | 8/25/2017<br><i>Public Act 100-0420</i> | <b>Support</b>  |
| <b>PURSUE COORDINATED INVESTMENTS</b>          |               |  |   |                 |
| Local government consolidation                 | <b>SB3</b>    | <p><b>Sen. Thomas Cullerton (D-Villa Park)</b></p> <p>The bill would make several changes to existing law that facilitate local government consolidation by expanding the DuPage, Lake, and McHenry pilot program allowing the county board to consolidate/ eliminate certain units of government to all counties in Illinois. The bill would allow counties to cease township organization structure (eliminate townships countywide) and choose whether to restructure into a commission form of government, rather than requiring that form of government in order to cease township organization. The bill would remove restrictions that limit townships to 126 square miles. The bill would provide a process by which any township within a</p>   | 8/14/2017<br><i>Public Act 100-0107</i> | <b>Neutral</b>  |

| Subject | Bill | Summary   | Status | Agency Position |
|---------|------|---|--------|-----------------|
|         |      | <p>coterminous municipality can dissolve and allows township road districts to be abolished when they have less than 15 center lane miles.</p> <p>While the efficient governance proposals articulated in this bill align well with GO TO 2040, staff recommends a neutral position because this bill is inseparable from the Senate's Grand Bargain.</p> |        |                 |

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#### INCREASE COMMITMENT TO PUBLIC TRANSIT

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|------------------|------------------------|--|--|----------------|
| RTA working cash | <a href="#">HB3004</a> | <b>Rep. Al Riley (D-Hazel Crest)</b>   | 8/25/2017<br><i>Governor Amendatory Veto</i> | <b>Support</b> |
|                  |                        | <p>Allows the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) to sell additional Working Cash Notes before July 1, 2020 (now 2018) that are over and above and in addition to the \$100,000,000 authorization. Working Cash Notes are essentially short-term (i.e. less than 24- month) loans to cover operating expenses. As amended, the RTA would also be permitted to establish a line of credit with a bank or other financial institution. To do so, the RTA must pass an ordinance and submit the ordinance to the Governor's Office of Management and Budget and the State Comptroller.</p> <p>Staff recommends supporting this legislation because the RTA's capacity to access short-term capital is a critical tool for mitigating the impact of the state's practice of delaying payments.</p> |  |                |

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#### Previously reported bills that have missed legislative deadlines

- [SB520](#) Continued federal appropriations (CMAP supports)
- [SB1337](#) Stormwater management (CMAP supports)
- [SB1507](#) County-led stormwater management (CMAP supports)
- [HB496](#) Township consolidation (CMAP supports)
- [HB662](#) Registration fee increase for electric and alternative fuel vehicles (CMAP supports)

[HB2756](#) Stormwater Management (CMAP supports)  
[HB2802](#) Transit benefit programs (CMAP supports)  
[HB3136](#) Increase the motor fuel tax (CMAP neutral)  
[SJR7](#) and [HJR12](#) I-55 managed lanes (CMAP supports)

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