



Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

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Policy & Programming Senior Policy Analyst - Transportation (SPA220) March 10, 2020

The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) is seeking to hire a Senior Policy Analyst to conduct research and analysis related to transportation, freight, land use, and other topics to support development and implementation of the agency's regional plan. CMAP is our region's official comprehensive planning organization. The agency and its partners are now implementing ON TO 2050, a new comprehensive regional 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. These strategies are emphasized through three overarching principles: Inclusive Growth, Resilience and Prioritized Investment. The agency's core values that drive our work product as well as the work environment are to serve with passion; pursue equity; foster collaboration; lead with excellence and drive innovation.

See www.cmap.illinois.gov for more information. Details regarding benefits are at www.cmap.illinois.gov/about/careers#benefits.

Position Purpose

The Senior Policy Analyst will be responsible for and assist with quantitative and qualitative analysis and policy development across a range of transportation and planning topics. The Senior Policy Analyst will also be responsible for managing projects and representing the agency's perspective on transportation and freight issues with regional, state, and federal partners. Potential projects may include: ongoing analysis of emerging state and federal legislation and regulations, tracking regional trends and transportation performance measures, and preparing reports and other products to convey transportation policy recommendations. Across these projects and tasks, the policy analyst will be expected to emphasize and implement the recommendations of ON TO 2050.

The ideal candidate for this position will demonstrate knowledge about the interactions between infrastructure, land use, economic development, and regional public policy and show aptitude for translating general policy recommendations into specific projects and policy proposals. Preference will be given to those who possess strong ability to collect, analyze and interpret data, creatively develop policy recommendations, manage research, and communicate findings to a broad range of audiences. All candidates should demonstrate a passion to address the complex challenges addressed by long range planning.

Responsibilities

- Manage or support agency initiatives to analyze transportation, freight, infrastructure, economic, and other relevant public policy issues facing northeastern Illinois and develop applied planning and policy solutions to meet these challenges at the regional scale.
- Collect and analyze data on transportation, freight, economic, and other regional trends.
- Prepare quantitative and qualitative assessments of transportation projects and policies, particularly focused on land use and economic impacts.
- Write reports, [policy updates](#), and issue briefs that explain data trends, synthesize qualitative analysis, and relate their potential impact on changes in federal, state, or local public policy.
- Review and provide analysis regarding legislation & regulations that impact CMAP work.
- Engage stakeholders through project-specific interviews, presentations to relevant CMAP committees, and participation in regional groups, where appropriate.

Knowledge, Skills and Abilities

- Demonstrated understanding and/or interest in the complex connections between transportation, development, the metropolitan economy, regional governance and policy.
- Ability to apply empirical evidence toward practical purposes, superior research and quantitative skills, and take creative approaches to problem-solving.
- Excellent writing skills and the ability to communicate effectively on issues of public policy and planning.
- Ability to manipulate and analyze large data sources in spreadsheets, databases, and GIS, generate findings from these data, and communicate results to a non-technical audience.
- Demonstrated ability to lead complex research projects, and produce reports and issue briefs that are factual, original, compelling, and persuasive.
- Successful experience as project manager in developing scopes, managing the cost/budget, timeline and deliverables of projects, and use of project management tools to monitor project performance.
- Strong communication and interpersonal skills and an ability to complement existing projects via independent or team-based work.
- Familiarity with the mechanics of the federal transportation program is desired.
- Familiarity with the governance structure in northeastern Illinois is desired.

Education and Experience

An undergraduate degree in Public Policy, Planning, Public Administration, or a related field is required; Master's strongly preferred. A minimum of five years of relevant prior work experience in a research-driven policy, planning, or analytical role is required. Proficiency with Microsoft Office Suite, with adaptability to other software. Demonstrated skills with databases, spreadsheets, and Arc/GIS geographic information systems.

How to Apply

Please submit cover letter and résumé via the web at www.cmap.illinois.gov/about/careers. Please refer to **Job Code (SPA220)**.

Posting End Date

This posting will stay open until filled.

*The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Metropolitan Agency for Planning does not sponsor H1B visas.*