



## Meet the executive team

[Erin Aleman](#) is the executive director of the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP). Appointed in June 2019, Aleman is the first woman and first professional planner to lead the agency. Aleman has more than a decade of experience with developing transportation and land-use policies. She began her career at CMAP before moving to the Illinois Department of Transportation, where she led the Office of Planning and Programming. As CMAP's executive director, Aleman oversees an agency that employs more than 100 staff members who develop and implement recommendations in ON TO 2050, the region's long-range plan.

[Amy McEwan](#) has been chief of staff since she started working at CMAP in September 2019. McEwan facilitates day-to-day operations and helps set the agency's policies and goals. Along with overseeing CMAP's annual operating budget, McEwan is responsible for agencywide strategic planning and work plan development. She supervises CMAP's deputy executive directors, leading the work to determine and prioritize the agency's projects and other products. Before coming to CMAP, McEwan worked in local government and urban planning for nearly 30 years, serving most recently as deputy county administrator in Lake County, Illinois. She has worked with rural and urban communities, helping policymakers address economic and workforce development, aging infrastructure, service sharing, pedestrian mobility, flood prevention, environmental sustainability, and other challenges.

[Laura Wilkison](#) is the deputy executive director of plan implementation and legislative affairs. Since working at CMAP in January 2020, Wilkison has led a team that advances ON TO 2050 recommendations, from policy to implementation. Her division oversees major policy initiatives, including ongoing work to plan for a post-pandemic mobility recovery and address the rise in traffic-related fatalities in the region. Wilkison's team produces policy reports and updates throughout the year and sets CMAP's annual federal and state legislative policy agendas. Throughout her career spanning more than 20 years in government relations and public policy, Wilkison has worked with numerous regional transportation service providers and the Chicago Department of Transportation, as well as federal, county, and municipal government officials.

[Stephane Phifer](#) has been the deputy executive director of planning at CMAP since May 2018. Phifer oversees programs that offer long-range planning assistance, training, and other resources to help the region's communities build capacity. Her team operates CMAP's Local Technical Assistance program, which has led to more than 200 local planning projects. As a region-wide resource, her division helps communities better understand and plan for economic



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development, housing, and other planning elements influenced by land use and transportation. Phifer came to CMAP following a 20-year career in the City of Aurora's planning department — an experience that brings a unique local government perspective to the agency's work.

[Kathleen Lane](#) is the deputy executive director of communications and outreach. Since starting at CMAP in June 2019, Lane has led the agency's public engagement efforts and communication programs and platforms. Her team is primarily responsible for managing the external communications of the agency, from CMAP's weekly newsletter to social media, as well as virtual and face-to-face outreach with our partners and other key stakeholders. Lane has held numerous leadership positions in communications for both the public and private sectors over the past two decades, including the National Safety Council, CARE International, Nokia, and the International Youth Foundation.

[Angela Manning-Hardimon](#) has been the deputy executive director of finance and administration since July 2015. Manning-Hardimon oversees CMAP's business operations, including the finance, human resource, information technology, procurement, and facilities teams. Before working at CMAP, Manning-Hardimon spent nearly 11 years as the chief financial officer for O'Hare and Midway International Airports. She has more than 18 years of experience as a chief financial officer, holding numerous leadership positions in finance and strategy for both the public and private sectors over the past two decades.