



History of the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

In spring 2005, local government and community leaders in northeastern Illinois saw a need for a new public agency that could help [coordinate comprehensive planning](#) throughout the region. Later that summer, the idea was signed into law through legislation called the Regional Planning Act.

The act created the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) to streamline, coordinate, and better integrate plans for land use and transportation among the region's 284 communities. It also ultimately consolidated within CMAP the two agencies previously responsible for land use and transportation planning — the Chicago Area Transportation Study (CATS) and the Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission (NIPC).

Since its inception, CMAP has been responsive to the region's residents and worked cooperatively with municipalities and counties that maintain authority for local land use decisions. CMAP staff offer expertise in numerous specialties, including the agency's three focus areas of transportation, regional economic competitiveness, and climate.

The CMAP Board also includes balanced representation from the agency's seven-county service area, which includes Cook, DuPage, Kane, Kendall, Lake, McHenry, and Will counties. The agency's policy, advisory, coordinating, and working committees, all play integral roles in CMAP's planning processes. The agency also is responsible for implementing ON TO 2050, the region's long-range plan that was developed with input from partners and stakeholders. The regional comprehensive plan establishes coordinated strategies to help northeastern Illinois address transportation, housing, economic development, open space, the environment, and other quality-of-life issues.