



## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Working Committees  
**From:** Todd Schmidt  
**Date:** 8/28/2013  
**Re:** Major Capital Projects Update

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Major capital projects are large, regionally significant projects that add capacity to the region's transportation system through adding lanes to or extending an existing interstate highway, building a new expressway facility, or making comparable improvements to the transit system. Arterial improvements are not considered major capital projects, nor are bus facilities unless they run on a dedicated lane on an expressway.

Per federal requirements, GO TO 2040, the metropolitan transportation plan for the 7-county Chicago region, is to be updated by October of 2014. Metropolitan regions are required to review and update their long range metropolitan transportation plans at least every four years if they are in air quality non-attainment areas, as Chicago is. This includes updating the list of fiscally constrained major capital projects identified in GO TO 2040. Major capital projects identified in the GO TO 2040 plan update are also required to be fiscally constrained through existing or reasonably expected revenue sources documented by a detailed transportation financial plan.

This memo describes the process CMAP will employ to update the fiscally constrained and unconstrained menu of major capital projects in the GO TO 2040 plan update.

### **Major Capital Project Update Process**

The process that will be used to update the major capital projects will include the following action areas:

- Outreach and project identification
- Project evaluation
- Development of fiscally constrained and unconstrained list of major capital projects

While each part of the update process is a separate action area, work on the action areas will progress simultaneously. A more detailed description of each action area is described below.

### Outreach and Project Identification

CMAP staff will contact and meet one-on-one with the implementing agencies -- the Illinois Department of Transportation, Illinois State Toll Highway Authority, Chicago Department of Transportation, Chicago Transportation Authority, Pace, and Metra -- to develop the universe of major capital projects. The primary sponsors of the existing major capital projects identified in GO TO 2040 will be asked to review and provide any necessary scope or cost updates. Implementing agencies will also have the opportunity to submit new major capital projects they would like to be included in the plan update. **Outreach** to the implementing agencies will begin in **September 2013**. The complete list of proposed major capital projects is expected to be available in **November 2013**.

### Project Evaluation

While the universe of major capital projects is being established, work will begin to identify the project evaluation measures that will be used for the plan update. CMAP staff will re-evaluate the measures developed for the GO TO 2040 regional plan and determine which measures will be used for the plan update. Each major capital project will be evaluated using the updated financial plan and socioeconomic forecast. Projects will also be evaluated on their support for GO TO 2040 priorities. Measures that will be used to evaluate the major capital projects will be finalized by **January 2014**.

### Fiscally Constrained and Unconstrained List

After the universe of major capital projects has been identified and each project evaluated, staff will develop a list of financially constrained major capital projects. The major capital projects that are not included in the financially constrained project list will be on the unconstrained project list. Both fiscally constrained and unconstrained **major capital project lists** will be developed by **April 2014**. After committee review, the major capital project lists will go to public comment as a part of the overall GO TO 2040 update.

ACTION REQUESTED: Information