



## MEMORANDUM

**To:** CMAP Board and Committees  
**From:** CMAP Staff  
**Date:** November 7, 2018  
**Re:** Revisions to CMAP committees following ON TO 2050 adoption

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To facilitate a swift transition from development and adoption of ON TO 2050 to action, staff have taken several steps to ensure the agency is well positioned to implement the plan. One such exercise involved a review of the composition and structure of CMAP's committees. Staff examined the history of **CMAP's committees**, surveyed practices of other regional planning organizations, and compiled lessons learned from the development of the ON TO 2050 plan. Since their inception, CMAP's committees have provided invaluable input to shape and refine the agency's work, including ON TO 2050. Their continued engagement, strategic guidance, and support will be critical for moving forward with regional implementation.

The revisions proposed in this memorandum aim to maintain CMAP's robust and unique system of engaging subject matter experts and local officials. The following findings and recommendations were generated through research, conversations and written feedback from CMAP staff and committee members, and consideration of ON TO 2050 principles and key implementation priorities.

### Findings and Recommendations

**Minor changes would support alignment of working committees with plan implementation.** Because ON TO 2050 largely builds on GO TO 2040's broad-based recommendations, most of the working committees are still well-aligned with the agency's priorities. However, the goals of the plan's Community chapter in particular illustrate the important intersections of development decisions and community vitality. Addressing housing and land use planning and policy together would enable more direct consideration of those deeply interrelated issues. The committee would be better positioned to consider how development decisions and housing options affect fiscal, economic, and quality of life outcomes.

**Recommendation:** Merge the Housing and Land Use Committees.

**Coordination between working committees and the Board could take place in one committee.**

In 2006, CMAP established two coordinating committees: the Planning Committee, which was responsible for the development of GO TO 2040, and the Programming Committee, which was responsible for approving transportation investment programs and other shorter-term programming activities. In January 2011, the committees were repurposed and renamed: the Local Coordinating Committee focused on oversight of the Local Technical Assistance (LTA) program and overall relationships with counties and municipalities; the Regional Coordinating Committee focused on regional, state, and federal policy issues. In 2016, as development of ON TO 2050 accelerated, the coordinating committees were reverted to Planning and Programming.

Given the crosscutting recommendations in ON TO 2050, bifurcated committees may create an unnecessary distinction for work that addresses both local implementation and regional policy challenges. The creation of a singular coordinating committee would allow members to consider development of interconnected policy, programming, and planning projects. The single coordinating committee would continue to balance broad regional representation and topical subject-matter expertise. Committee members could include five working committee representatives (see recommendation below) and six board members, two each from the city, suburban Cook, and collar counties. The By-Laws of the Board enable the Chairman to delegate oversight of the committees to the Executive Director; doing so could support an expedient transition of membership in the start of 2019.

**Recommendation:** Establish one coordinating committee and delegate to the Executive Director responsibility to identify members for Board approval at the January meeting.

**CMAP should update working committees' membership.** As CMAP took on additional topics through the development of ON TO 2050, the agency broadened its network. CMAP staff engaged new expert stakeholders who provided guidance in individual interviews, resource groups, and through public engagement. Going forward, the agency should leverage those new connections and bring additional expertise and voices to the committees' work. Reviewing and updating committee memberships would ensure varied expertise in each committee to speak to relevant elements of the plan. Additionally, staff could update membership to ensure future consideration of the plan's principles of inclusive growth, resilience, and prioritized investment. As noted above, the By-Laws of the Board enable the Chairman to delegate oversight of the committees to the Executive Director; doing so could support an expedient transition of membership in the start of 2019.

**Recommendation:** Delegate to the Executive Director responsibility to identify working committee chairs and members for Board approval at the January 2019 meeting.

ACTION REQUESTED: Approval

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