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**Press Contact:** Melissa Silverberg ([msilverberg@cmap.illinois.gov](mailto:msilverberg@cmap.illinois.gov) or 312-386-8641)

## **CMAP announces 29 new local planning projects to help communities prosper**

*Expanded Local Technical Assistance (LTA) program offers wider array of support to implement ON TO 2050, achieve local goals.*

CHICAGO, April 10, 2019 – As part of the implementation of ON TO 2050, the Chicago region’s new comprehensive plan, the [Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning](http://www.cmap.illinois.gov) (CMAP) Board has approved a new slate of local planning projects to help communities prosper.

Supported by CMAP’s [Local Technical Assistance](http://www.cmap.illinois.gov) (LTA) program, which has undertaken more than 200 projects since 2012 -- the 29 new projects will help local governments, nonprofits, and intergovernmental collaborators address issues at the intersections of transportation, land use, and quality of life.

Selected projects include a corridor revitalization plan in Chicago’s Austin neighborhood, a multijurisdictional bike plan in Bartlett and Streamwood, a plan to identify and mitigate the risks and effects of flooding on transportation infrastructure in the western suburbs, and comprehensive plans in south suburban Ford Heights, as well as west suburban Minooka and Burlington. The newly approved projects also include an effort with the McHenry County Department of Planning and Development, building on two previous LTA-supported projects, to plan for the Fox River as a hub of recreation and commerce.

“These new projects will help communities plan for a more resilient, inclusive, and thriving future,” said CMAP executive director Joseph C. Szabo. “Each community and project is an opportunity to bring residents, advocates, local governments, and resources together to affect real change that will help communities and the region prosper.”

The CMAP Board approved 17 new LTA projects today following a fall 2018 joint call for projects with the Regional Transit Authority’s (RTA) Community Planning program that received a combined 74 applications from 66 different applicants. In selecting projects, staff considered alignment with ON TO 2050, community need, geographic distribution, topic diversity, and alignment with the LTA program, implementation potential and available resources.

In an effort to expand the types of assistance CMAP offers to the region, the Board recommended that 12 applicants receive support that does not include a traditional plan but

does further community goals. Forms of this alternative support include having CMAP staff convene relevant partners; conduct priority-setting workshops; provide subject matter expert participation in their efforts; provide capacity building training; and other forms of staff assistance that will help applicants with future planning projects.

Aligned with ON TO 2050's focus on [inclusive growth](#), LTA emphasizes the importance of assistance in areas that -- due to limited resources -- may not otherwise have the ability to undertake such efforts. Two-thirds of the projects selected for CMAP support are in moderate, high, or very high need communities --based on size, median income, and local tax base.

See a [map](#) of selected projects throughout the region and read a [description](#) of each project.

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