

Newsletter

MARCH/APRIL
2025



Photo Credit: Village of Montgomery



Photo Credit: City of St. Charles

FUNDING UPDATES

FY 2024-26 PROTECT Grant Opportunity *UPDATE*

FHWA is reviewing the Notice of Funding Opportunity for Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation and has removed it from its grants website. Any re-opening or re-posting of this opportunity will be available on its grants website and will include any updates made as a result of this review. Visit [Grants.gov](https://www.fhwa.gov/grants) to see the latest update as well as the [PROTECT](#) webpage for a description of the funding opportunity.

Federal Recreational Trails Program

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources is now accepting applications for the [Federal Recreational Trails Program \(RTP\)](#). This program provides funding assistance for acquisition, development, rehabilitation, and maintenance of both motorized and non-motorized recreation trails. The RTP program can provide up to 80% federal funding on approved projects and requires a minimum 20% non-federal funding match. The application deadline is **March 21st, 2025**.

CMAP & RTA 2025 Call for Technical Assistance

This year, CMAP and RTA will again partner together to offer technical assistance to local governments to help foster the growth of sustainable, equitable, walkable, and transit-friendly communities around transit assets by encouraging transit-supportive land uses and infrastructure. Applications will be accepted from **March 10th to April 4th**, and more information can be found on [CMAP's Planning Technical Assistance Program webpage](#).

KANE COUNTY UPDATES

Staff Announcement – Jackie Forbes

It is with bittersweet sentiment that KKKOM and the Kane County Division of Transportation bid farewell to Jackie Forbes on February 28th. Jackie's guidance, support, and wealth of knowledge have left a lasting impact on our team, shaping not only our work but also our growth as professionals. While we will certainly miss her leadership, we are immensely grateful for her expertise and distinct professionalism. We wish her all the success and happiness in her new role at the Illinois Tollway!

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SAVE THE DATE

March 4	CMAP CoM Executive Committee
March 6	CMAP CMAQ & TAP PSC
March 11	CMAP STP PSC
March 13	CMAP MPO Policy
March 20	KKKOM Bike/Ped Committee
April 3	CMAP STP PSC
April 3	CMAP CMAQ & TAP PSC
April 9	CMAP Board
April 17	KKKOM TPC
April 25	CMAP Transportation Committee

NADO REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION CONFERENCE

The [National Regional Transportation Conference](#) will be held in Des Moines, Iowa from July 15-17, 2025. Registration will be available soon.

ADA COORDINATORS GROUP SLIDES AND MEETINGS

CMAP's Regional ADA Coordinators Group is a peer professional development group. Information from the last meeting is available online: [CMAP ADA Coordinators](#). Registration is now open for the [March 18th meeting](#) which will focus on self-evaluation and transition plans. The following meeting on May 13 will continue discussions on the same topic.

FY 2027 HIGHWAY SAFETY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (HSIP)

Illinois' HSIP is a data-driven program for infrastructure improvements administered by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) intended to reduce deaths and serious injuries due to crashes on public roadways. Applications for Fiscal Year 2027 is anticipated to open in the spring of 2025: [FY 2027 HSIP](#).

2025 ILLINOIS BIKE & WALK SUMMIT

The [2025 Illinois Bike & Walk Summit](#) (ILBWS25) hosted by Ride Illinois will take place May 7-8 at the Wyndham Springfield City Centre. ILBWS25 is the state's most important conference related to biking and walking. This year's theme is creating connected, livable, thriving communities. Those interested in attending can register with the link above. Contact info@rideillinois.org with any questions.

SALARY CAP INCREASE FOR ENGINEERING AGREEMENTS

On Feb 7, 2025, IDOT released Circular Letter 2025-02 that explains a change in the salary cap on engineering agreements from \$86/hour to \$90/hour. The forms affected by these changes are BLR 05513 and BLR 05514. More information can be found online: [Circular Letter 2025-02](#).

FIRST QUARTER MY METRA NEWSLETTER AVAILABLE

Metra releases a quarterly [digital newsletter](#) that details issues relevant to Metra. Included in the most recent newsletter is information about: the new Metra chairperson Joseph McMahon, efforts to honor military veterans, the new Metra website, an update on the public transit fiscal cliff, employee spotlights, and much more.

KANE COUNTY CONT'D

Kane County Safety Action Plan Update

Work continues on the Kane County Safety Action Plan as the online survey and interactive map closed on Friday, February 28th. The project team will draft the safety action plan, using what they heard from the community and will share more on existing safety conditions and a high-injury network later this spring and summer. Kane County Department of Transportation teamed up with the Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways to host a Safe Travel for All open house in Elgin on Saturday, February 22nd at the Centre of Elgin. The project team talked with residents from Elgin and the surrounding area about specific safety issues and locations of concern, as well as ideas for safety solutions in downtown Elgin.

PARTNER UPDATES

RTA Releases Vision: Transforming Transit

The Regional Transportation Authority of Northeastern Illinois (RTA) released "[Transforming Transit](#)," a \$1.5 billion vision aimed at shaping the future of transit funding and governance which must resolve transit's historic funding gap. The Illinois legislature must put forth a sustainable funding solution by this May to avoid service cuts and fare increases at catastrophic and unprecedented levels. "We know our riders deserve world-class service. To provide it, we need to secure sustainable funding. And this document describes exactly what our riders and our region could get out of this level of investment," said RTA Executive Director Leanne Redden.

IDOT Releases STP Allotments

On February 21, 2025 IDOT released allotments for the state FY 2026 federal Surface Transportation Program - Rural (STR), Surface Transportation Program - Urban (STU), Local Bridge Formula Program (LBFP, formerly STP-Br), and State Matching Assistance (SMA). The federal funding is based on 2020 Census data. More details are included in the circular letter: [Circular Letter 2025-04](#).

CTA and Pace Receive Grant to Buy 57 Electric Buses

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) awarded Pace and the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) \$27 million and \$31.25 million, respectively, to purchase electric buses. The funding was made available through the Driving a Cleaner Illinois grant program. Pace will provide a \$9 million match to the IEPA award, and the RTA will provide a \$10.42 million match. Pace will purchase 27 battery-electric buses, and the CTA will purchase 30 all-electric buses to replace the oldest diesel buses in their fleets: [Electric Buses Press Release](#).

Metra to Explore Financing to Fix Bridges

Metra trains cross 926 bridges every weekday, with 446 owned by Metra and the rest owned by freight railroads. Of those 446, 50 percent are more than 100 years old, and another 30 percent are more than 75 years old. To fix this problem, Metra is considering borrowing around \$230 million from the federal Railroad Rehabilitation and Improvement Financing (RRIF) program. Please see: [Metra Bridge Financing](#).



CMAP NEWS

2024 Annual Report Now Available

The 2024 Annual Report highlights how CMAP serves northeastern Illinois, its communities, and its people to improve infrastructure, mobility, environment, the economy, and quality of life. The report describes notable progress made during the past year by showcasing the activities that advanced CMAP’s long-term vision and goals, reflecting on the work of staff and support of regional partners. It also highlights CMAP’s continuing efforts to deliver assistance and resources to local jurisdictions and to engage with diverse local audiences.

Some of CMAP’s notable accomplishments for 2024 include: Establishing the I-290 Blue Line Corridor Development Office with our state and local partners, leading the Comprehensive Climate Action Plan for the three-state greater Chicago area, overseeing the Safe Travel for All regional initiative to improve traffic safety and create countywide safety action plans, and leveraging the Plan of Action for Regional Transit to shape discussions and legislation to strengthen and invest in northeastern Illinois’ transit system and avert a projected \$730 million shortfall in 2026. More details can be found by viewing the [2024 Annual Report](#).

CMAP’s Regional Transportation Plan Survey

As part of developing the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), CMAP is implementing a [survey](#) to allow residents the opportunity to express how they feel the transportation system can be improved. Transportation system user feedback will shape how we improve transportation, reduce congestion, and build a more sustainable future for our region. Responses will be accepted throughout 2025, giving everyone plenty of time to weigh in.

The questionnaire will take approximately 10 minutes and will help CMAP answer the following three main questions:

- What is the transportation system the region wants?

- What are the challenges and opportunities to get there?
 - How will the region implement the system it wants?
- If you have questions about the RTP or questionnaire, or would like CMAP to present or attend a local event, please reach out to rtp@cmap.illinois.gov.

CMAP’s 2025-2026 Advocacy Agenda

CMAP will mark its 20th anniversary in 2025. As one of the world’s most significant economic hubs, the CMAP region needs to adequately fund transportation, climate change, and economic development in an increasingly competitive global economy. In light of this reality, CMAP has put forth its [2025-26 Federal and State Advocacy Agenda](#) which details policy positions and priorities to help the region address challenges, seize opportunities, and continue to thrive. Some of the top legislative priorities include: securing a dedicated annual appropriation from the state, supporting innovations that streamline project delivery, increased investment in safe and complete streets, increasing resources for integrated water resource management, and many others.

FY26 Budget and Work Plan Approved

CMAP’s annual budget and work plan describes what CMAP does per their federal and state mandated responsibilities. This mainly includes funding, revenues, and expenses as well as overview of the activities that will be continued or that will start during the fiscal year.

The FY2026 (July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026) budget is \$43.1 million. Some of the major activities in CMAP’s FY26 workplan include updating the Regional Transportation Plan, strengthening their role as an authoritative source of regional data, and creating a new Safe Systems program to complement their Safe and Complete Streets Program. A draft of the [FY26 Budget and Work Plan](#) is available.

