

CMAP News

In accordance with the stay at home order, the CMAP office remains closed for the foreseeable future, but [staff](#) are working remotely and are available via email and telephone. [CMAP committee meetings](#) continue to be conducted virtually.

For general questions, you can send an email through our [contact form](#) and remember to stay up-to-date by subscribing to CMAP's Weekly Update emails or [viewing online](#).

COVID-19 Response and Resources

CMAP wants to keep you updated on COVID-19 impacts to the region. Each week, we will bring you more information and analysis to help shape decision making. You can find previous analyses on our [COVID-19 Response](#) page, as well as a [list of resources](#) to aid our partners in this uncertain time. We've also updated our [transportation system analysis](#) — covering roads, trips, safety, transit, and freight rail — with the latest data.

Job Opportunities

CMAP is seeking applicants for two program managers, an associate planner/analyst, and a senior planner/analyst. Visit the agency's [Careers](#) page to learn more and apply.

Moving Forward on Regional Economic Recovery

CMAP continues to convene the Regional Economic Recovery Task Force to identify strategies that support a strong economic recovery from COVID-19. The task force, [launched](#) in November 2020, includes working groups dedicated to economic development, tourism, and workforce. Leaders from across northeastern Illinois are meeting regularly to discuss how to build back a more inclusive, prosperous, and resilient region.

Improving Equity in Transportation Fees, Fines, and Fares

Our transportation system is a literal route to opportunity, connecting residents to jobs, education, and services. And yet significant inequities exist. In a [new report](#), CMAP details how transportation fees, fines, and fares impact residents with low income and people of color, and recommends policy changes to improve equity. [Read more](#).

Update Zoning Rules to Meet Housing Needs

Zoning governs the look and feel of a community. But rules that restrict housing options can force residents to leave when their lives change, and prevent new ones from moving in. The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) supports efforts to remove exclusionary practices like single-family zoning and other harmful land use policies. In this [new video](#) from CMAP, learn how communities can update their rules to better support residents at every stage of their lives.

Program Status Updates

Surface Transportation Program

The next STP Project Selection Committee (PSC) meeting will be held virtually on July 1, 2021. A full calendar of 2021 meetings is available on the [committee web page](#). Program status reports for the STP Shared Fund, based on quarterly updates submitted by project sponsors and an accounting of available, programmed, and obligated funds is for the region are available on CMAP's [STP web page](#).

Staff Contact: [Kama Dobbs](#) (312-386-8710)

Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) and Transportation Alternatives (TAP)

The next CMAQ Project Selection Committee (PSC) meeting will be held virtually on May 13, 2021. Project change requests for the May meeting are due **Thursday, April 29th**.

Staff Contact: [Doug Ferguson](#) (312-386-8824), [Elliott Lewis](#)

Regional Safety Action Agenda

CMAP is placing increasing attention on traffic safety as the number of fatalities and injuries continue to increase, and we've lacked progress towards meeting federally required safety performance targets. As part of our commitment to safety, CMAP is kicking off a Safety Resource Group. The group will inform a 'Regional Safety Action Agenda' to recommend safety improvements through the lenses of equity, engineering, education, enforcement and emergency services and public health. The Resource Group will include members from across these fields to prioritize actions, build consensus and develop safety tools, resources and policy for our regional partners. We will keep you informed as this work progresses.

In our latest CMAP Talks on [complete streets](#) design, panelists from the Illinois Department of Transportation, City of Aurora, and Epstein discussed how design can improve safety, and how communities in northeastern Illinois have adopted complete streets policies. We encourage you to share the webinar recording and [presentation](#) with your network as we work to improve safety for all travelers. Watch a recording of the session [here](#).

Staff Contact: [Victoria Jacobsen](#)

Calls for Projects

Environmental Justice Grants

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will award grants through its [Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Cooperative Agreement Program](#) and [The Environmental Justice Small Grants Program](#).

The EPA will give special consideration to projects focusing on COVID-19 impacts and climate and disaster resiliency, as well as projects proposed by new applicants and small nonprofits. Applicants must submit proposals by **Friday, May 7**, with a planned project start date of Friday, October 1.

FY 2023 Local Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP)

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) is requesting candidate projects for the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) that will be initiated in FY 2023. Applications for this funding program will be received through **Friday, May 7**, 2021 at 5:00 PM CT, and the announcement of the selected projects for funding will be made during the week of July 26th, 2021.

HSIP has a goal of achieving a significant reduction in traffic fatalities and serious injuries on all public roads. Fatal and serious injury crashes associated with roadway departures, intersections, and pedestrians are high priority emphasis areas based on the current Illinois Strategic Highway Safety Plan. HSIP funds may be used for a total reconstruction or also to address safety issues without completely reconstructing entire roadway segments or intersections to the latest policies and standards.

Federal Transportation Grants

Regional and local governments can apply for \$1 billion in [Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity](#) grants through **Monday, July 12**. The U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) will evaluate applications on safety, environmental sustainability, quality of life, economic competitiveness, and other merit criteria. USDOT will prioritize projects that can demonstrate improvements to equity, as well as reduce impacts of climate change and create good-paying jobs.

RAISE Discretionary Grants

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) published a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) to apply for \$1 billion in Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2021 discretionary grant funding through the [Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity \(RAISE\) grants](#). For this round of RAISE grants, formerly known as BUILD and TIGER, the maximum grant award is \$25 million, and no more than \$100 million can be awarded to a single State. Up to \$30 million will be awarded to planning grants, including at least \$10 million to Areas of Persistent Poverty. The deadline to submit a RAISE application is **July 12, 2021**.

Water Infrastructure Projects

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has approximately \$5.5 billion available to finance water infrastructure projects through the [Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act program](#). Letters of intent are due by **Friday, July 23**.

CMAP Products and Data

CMAP flood index can help region prepare for risks

To help northeastern Illinois better understand and prepare for flood risks, CMAP developed the [regional flood susceptibility index](#). The comprehensive data resource helps communities identify areas that have experienced flood damage and may be at greater risk of flooding in the future. Communities then can target investments to mitigate the potential for flooding.

CMAP uses the index to visualize flood risk regionally and integrate stormwater management strategies into local planning projects. Our [flood susceptibility guide](#) also describes the different ways communities can use the index for their own planning activities.

Share your thoughts on planning projects

Plans that reflect the values and priorities of their communities require meaningful public participation from residents and stakeholders. The [Engage with CMAP](#) website allows residents to share their thoughts, ideas, and concerns on current planning projects in the region. Stay informed and connected by checking out the site. We look forward to hearing from you!

Public Input Opportunities

ON TO 2050/FFY 2021-25 TIP Conformity Analysis and TIP Amendment

CMAP has released a conformity amendment to the FFY 2021-25 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). This amendment is open for public comment, from April 16, 2021 to May 17, 2021. Conformity analysis is part of the transportation modeling process that evaluates the impact on air quality of projects in ON TO 2050 and the FFY 2021-25 TIP, as amended. On-road vehicle emissions are reviewed to determine that the region will reach national ambient air quality goals. Please review the ON TO 2050/TIP [Conformity Analysis](#) & TIP [Amendment 21-06](#). Comments regarding the individual TIP conformity amendments may be submitted to CMAP by [mail](#), [e-mail](#), or phone (312-454-0400).

Joliet Intermodal Master Plan

Will County and the City of Joliet have developed the Joliet Intermodal Master Plan for the Elwood/Joliet subregion of Will County. The plan's purpose is to identify transportation needs that support anticipated development of the area's intermodal industry while simultaneously working to improve quality of life for area residents. The study area boundary is Interstate 80 on the north, U.S. 52 on the east, West Hoff Road on the south, and Interstate 55 on the west.

Public input is being sought on the draft Transportation Improvement Program that identifies transportation priorities. All members of the public are invited to comment through **Monday, May 17**. Visit the Joliet Intermodal Master Plan website, and provide your input on the [public involvement section](#) of the webpage.

From Our Partners

IDOT 36th Annual Fall Planning Conference – Call for Topics

The theme for IDOT's 26th Annual Fall Planning Conference is "Planning for Recovery!" What lessons has the past year of COVID taught us and what adaptations should we make as we move forward into the brave new world of transportation? You can suggest a topic or volunteer to present [here](#).

Assistance for Restaurants and Venue Operators

The U.S. Small Business Administration opened registration for the [Restaurant Revitalization Fund](#). The fund provides direct relief funds to restaurants and other food establishments that experienced economic distress and significant operational losses due to the pandemic.

The Small Business Administration also reopened the [Shuttered Venue Operator grant program](#). This grant provides emergency assistance for theaters, museums, and other eligible venues affected by COVID-19.

A new tree in every community of northeastern Illinois

Trees improve quality of life by providing significant social and health benefits, cleaning the air and water, reducing energy costs, and more. To realize these benefits, the Chicago Region Trees Initiative (CRTI) encourages northeastern Illinois' 284 communities and Chicago's 50 wards to plant at least one tree this year. Read more about CRTI's [Plant Trees for Communities initiative](#), and commit to planting a tree in your community.

Training Opportunities

National Highway Institute (NHI) Web-based Training

The NHI has no-cost trainings available that are recommended for engineers and construction workers. These includes topics such as such as Introduction to Safety Inspection of In-Service Bridges, Chip Seal Best Practices, Pipe Installation, Inspection, and Quality, Introduction to a Transportation Asset Management Plan and Hot In-Place Recycling. To browse courses and register visit <http://bit.ly/nhitraining> and enter your government email.