



2026 Regional Transportation Plan

Northeastern Illinois' vast transportation network is one of its greatest competitive advantages. The Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) plays a critical role in shaping the future of the regional transportation system by convening stakeholders across the region, establishing a shared transportation vision, and aligning partners around priority investments.

Building on the foundation set in northeastern Illinois' current comprehensive plan, the 2026 RTP sets five key goals:



Strengthen connections between people and places



Prioritize safety and public health



Mitigate pollution and invest in resilient infrastructure



Support economic prosperity and inclusive growth



Strategically govern, fund, and preserve the transportation system

The RTP examines these interconnected topics — mobility, safety, climate, economy, and fiscal stewardship — and identifies strategies to make progress on shared regional goals.



Chicago Metropolitan
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Hear from our
Faces of the RTP at
cmap.is/RTPfaces

Two sides of the ledger

Northeastern Illinois is an international transportation hub. This strength is the result of generations of bold investment in the regional transportation system and a shared commitment to sustain and improve it.

The transportation system is like a ledger with two columns. On one side are the region's transportation assets and the benefits they unlock: mobility, economic activity, and quality of life. On the other side are the long-term obligations required to maintain those assets into the future. For decades, northeastern Illinois has added to the asset side of the ledger, while the obligations side has grown faster than revenues can support.

Additional revenue can help narrow the gap. But if the region takes on obligations faster than revenues can offset them, the gap will continue to grow. The challenge is not limited to how much revenue the region has, but also what commitments it makes — what it builds, where it invests, and how it structures long-term stewardship.



Priority investments

The 2026 RTP elevates a list of priority investments, which includes 15 projects and programs that are expected to make the greatest impact in fulfilling regional transportation goals. Advancing these priorities is integral to RTP implementation and will require sustained collaboration, focus, and resources.



Priority investments in the 2026 RTP include:

Advancing regional rail

Chicago Hub Improvement Program

Connect 290 Blue

Connected sidewalks, bikeways, and micromobility infrastructure

CREATE 75th Street Corridor Improvement Project

Faster, more reliable buses

I-55 improvements

I-90/I-94 reconstruction (Hubbard Street to 31st Street)

North DuSable Lake Shore Drive improvements

Randall Road improvements

Red and Purple Modernization next phases

Regional Intelligent Transportation Systems/transportation management center

Transit station accessibility

Transportation decarbonization

US 45 - Rollins Road to IL 120



Scan to explore the 2026 RTP regional capital projects map.

For more information about the 2026 RTP Regional Capital Projects (RCP), see the RCP Benefits Report and the Financial Plan at map.is/rtp.

Stay engaged



Engage with CMAP directly

CMAP holds public meetings on the RTP and major planning studies. Governing body and committee meetings — including the Transportation Committee, the MPO Policy Committee, and the CMAP Board — are open to the public. Sign up for updates and submit comments at cmap.illinois.gov.

Explore the CMAP Data Hub

The Data Hub provides the public with access to transportation performance metrics, socioeconomic trends, and project information that reflects the decisions in this plan. Use it to track progress, identify gaps, and make the case for investment in specific communities or corridors. Visit datahub.cmap.illinois.gov.



Participate in community projects

The region's goals are only as strong as the projects that carry them forward. When a corridor study, environmental review, or design process opens in your community or along a corridor you use, continue to advocate for the regional transportation goals highlighted in the 2026 RTP. You also can review and engage with CMAP projects at engage.cmap.illinois.gov.

Engage your local government

Decisions about zoning, local road maintenance, sidewalk construction, and transit-supportive development are often made at the municipal level. Local comprehensive plans and capital improvement programs compound over time into the regional system this plan seeks to improve.



Hold the region accountable

CMAP regularly publishes updates on the state of the region's transportation system. When the region makes progress, you can help celebrate it. When trends move in the wrong direction, engage with it through public discourse.



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If you have a question, want to learn more, or want to invite CMAP to present or discuss the 2026 RTP, please e-mail us at rtp@cmap.illinois.gov.

cmap.is/rtp

