

Congestion management process

Congestion is a significant problem in northeastern Illinois. Decreasing associated costs and negative impacts requires effective strategies for both managing and reducing congestion. The negative impacts of congestion are a recurring topic in ON TO 2050, the comprehensive plan for the region, which calls for congestion management measures as a part of our investment in the transportation system to improve prosperity, the environment, and mobility.

What is the congestion management process (CMP)?

A CMP is a systematic and regionally-accepted approach for managing congestion that provides accurate, up-to-date information on transportation system performance and assesses strategies for congestion management that meet state, regional, and local needs.¹

As the metropolitan planning organization for northeastern Illinois, the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) maintains a CMP as part of the regional transportation planning process. The CMP supports the advancement of the mobility goals in ON TO 2050, which are:



A modern multimodal system that adapts to changing travel demand



A system that works better for everyone



Making transformative investments that promote regional economic vitality

In partnership with agencies, implementers, and organizations throughout the region, CMAP is pursuing a comprehensive update to the congestion management process. More information on the current CMP can be found on the [CMAP website](#).

Required components



Objectives and performance measures

Establish objectives to achieve desired outcomes through the CMP, as well as performance measures that allow for the measurement of congestion and overall transportation system performance.



Analysis of congestion problems and needs

Create a process to analyze congestion problems and needs in the region, to allow for the identification of priority areas and corridors for the implementation of strategies.



Strategies

Identify, assess, and implement congestion management strategies. Strategies will consider unique context, mode, facility type, surrounding land use, and other factors.

The required components of the CMP are outlined in Federal Highway Administration [guidance](#). CMAP's CMP will also include resources such as a guidebook and corridor study template, focusing on strategy implementation and prioritization in alignment with the region's transportation planning goals. The updated CMP, guidebook, and corridor study template are expected in summer 2025.

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¹ See more on the regulations and requirements for the congestion management process on the FHWA website: https://ops.fhwa.dot.gov/plan4ops/focus_areas/cmp.htm