Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

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MEMORANDUM

To: Transportation Committee

From: Russell Pietrowiak, Program Lead

Date: November 17, 2026

Subject: Conformity Amendment for the 2026 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) FFY 2027-2032 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

Action Requested: Recommendation for approval by the MPO Policy Committee

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Purpose

Projects that are not exempt from air quality requirements must have a conformity determination made before they can be included in the 2026 RTP and FFY 2027-2032 TIP. The Illinois Tollway is requesting to add two not exempt projects to the RTP's list of fiscally constrained Regional Capital Projects (RCPs) through a plan amendment of the 2026 RTP. The RTP Major Amendment 1 plan revision and this memo provides the information and support for a conformity determination of the 2026 RTP and FFY 2027-2032 TIP that includes the addition of these two projects.

In approving RTP Major Amendment 1, the MPO Policy Committee affirms that the 2026 RTP and FFY 2027-2032 TIP are fiscally constrained and conformed.

RTP Major Plan Amendment 1:

- 01-19-0031, Jane Addams Tollway (I-90) Eastbound Exit to Lee Street - RCP 54220
  This project would add an eastbound exit ramp from I-90 to Lee St. Additionally, the project includes intersection and pedestrian improvements at nearby local streets.

- 04-27-0002, Tri-State Tollway (I-294) at Irving Park Road (IL-19) Interchange Improvement - RCP 54219
  This project is an interchange expansion that includes a new northbound exit ramp/bridge from I-294 to Mannheim Rd/Seymour Ave with a flyover bridge over I-294 and 2 new southbound entrance ramps; one from Mannheim Rd/Seymour Ave and the other from Mannheim Rd/Montrose Ave. Additionally, the project includes intersection improvements.

CMAP's eTIP public website displays information about projects in the TIP. Projects submitted and analyzed as part of this conformity amendment can also be viewed on the public website under PLAN REVISIONS, by clicking on amendment CMAP/TIP 2027-2031/ RTP Major Amendment 1

Emissions modeling

The regional travel demand model was run using the updated networks that included the addition of the two tollway projects. The resultant vehicle miles traveled (VMT) by vehicle class, speed, time of day, and facility type were entered into U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (U.S. EPA) MOVES5 model for emissions modeling.

The Chicago Nonattainment area is within the CMAP region and is classified as Serious Nonattainment for Ozone. Ozone is a gas that is formed by the reaction of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) and Oxides of Nitrogen (NO_X) in the atmosphere in the presence of sunlight (VOC and NO_X are referred to as ozone precursors). Illinois EPA has an approved State Implementation Plan (SIP) to reduce Ozone levels in the CMAP region to meet the current National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). A revision to the SIP was approved in the Federal Register on May 14, 2026 (91 FR 27207) that includes a Motor Vehicle Emissions budget (MVEB) for VOC and NO_x that CMAP needs to demonstrate conformity for. Using MOVES5, CMAP modeled on-road emission estimates for ozone precursors VOC and NO_x in each analysis year required.

The emission analysis shown in the table below demonstrates that the 2026 RTP and FFY 2027-2032 TIP conforms to the Motor Vehicle Emissions Budget for volatile organic compounds (VOC) and nitrogen oxides (NO_x) as required.

VOC and NO_x Emissions in Tons per Summer Day for Ozone Conformity

	Volatile Organic Compounds		Nitrogen Oxides	
Year	**Northeastern Illinois**	**SIP Budget**	**Northeastern Illinois**	**SIP Budget**
2026	**52.44**	52.47	**112.56**	165.78
2030	**46.77**	52.47	**70.89**	165.78
2035	**40.59**	52.47	**45.67**	165.78
2040	**36.16**	52.47	**36.52**	165.78
2050	**31.58**	52.47	**32.48**	165.78

Conformity is demonstrated by comparison of analysis year emissions to the SIP budgets

Notes:

Off-model benefits are not included in the total emissions estimates

Results updated as of November 2026