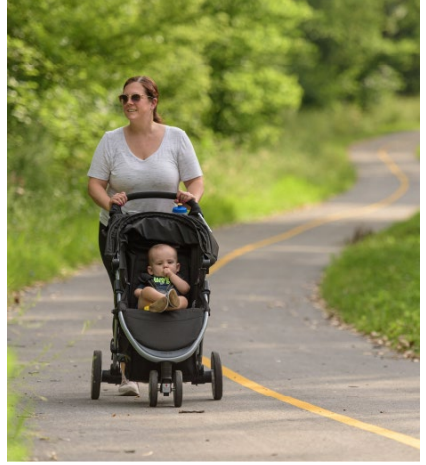
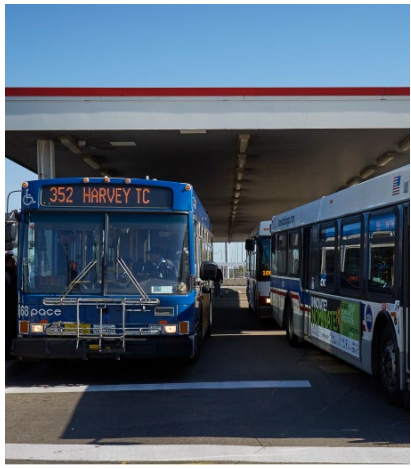
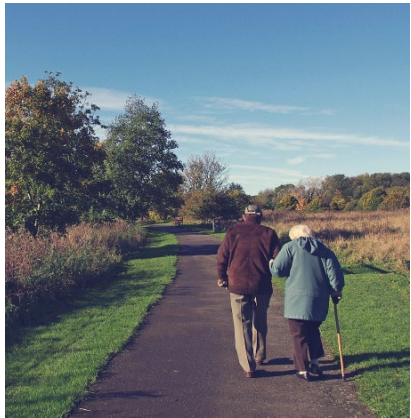
Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

# Executive Team RPA Funding Discussion (Planning Ideas)

**July 10, 2025**







# PLN1: Plan Commissioner Trainings

| | |
|---|---|
| SME/Program Manager: | Patrick Day |
| Staffing: | Consultant (minimum CMAP staff) |
| Timing: | FY26 Q1 |
| Budget: | ~$250,000 |

**Accomplished through a consultant contract (we have worked with APA and DePaul in the past). Patrick has information on past contracts and proposed curriculum – it was a deliverable from the previously developed ESP program**

# PLN2: Regional Economic Development Summit

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|---|---|
| SME/Program Manager: | Tony Manno |
| Staffing: | Consultant (minimum CMAP staff) |
| Timing: | FY26 Q3 (4-6 month lead/prep/sched time) |
| Budget: | ~$250,000 |

**Building on the ULI contract, the idea is to hold multiple regional level developer panel discussions/roundtables on common local and subregional economic development issues. This would be accomplished through a new/or amended contract with ULI. Tony has information on the current contract and information on how other larger ULI events have been conducted in the past.**

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# PLN3: 1:1 Municipal Support (NDD & JQA, etc)

SME/Program Manager: Tony Manno

Staffing: CMAP staff

Timing: FY26 Q2

**1:1 support sessions with municipalities to utilize the NDD, Job Access Tool, and other data tools like the Housing Snapshots to address a current challenge (or opportunity) in their community and connect the data dots. This would be accomplished though CMAP staff most likely meet 2 or 3 times on-site with the community. It would be an ongoing form of support publicized through newsletters, LGN, and the COGs.**

# PLN4: Zoning Resources

SME/Program Manager: Jaemi Jackson

Staffing: CMAP staff and consultant support

Timing: FY26 Q2

**Provide technical assistance to communities for zoning challenges (and opportunities) by providing model ordinances (develop a library of common use specific codes) and perhaps implementation training. This could be accomplished through a consultant contract (including developing the topics) and/or staff time. It would be a new form of support publicized through newsletters, LGN, and the COGs.**

# PLN5: New Responsive Dynamic TA

SME/Program Manager: Patrick Day

Staffing: CMAP staff, augmented staff consultants, and potentially student support (UIC and DuPaul)

Timing: FY26 Q3

**Provide new forms of short-term responsive support to municipalities. Topics would be identified through LGN, municipal survey, Mayor's Council, and the COGs. Topics may include workforce housing, vacancy studies, etc. This could be accomplished through a consultant contract (including developing the topics) and/or staff time.**

# Job Quality & Access Tool 3.0/update

SME/Program Manager: Tony Manno

Staffing: CMAP staff w/consultant support

Timing: FY26 Q2

Data update, get RAP more involved, data additions that would make it a stronger tool. Possibly re-engage TIP Strategies to help with update, transfer to CMAP platform, and offboard themselves for future updates.

# Economic Development Directors Network

SME/Program Manager: Tony Manno

Staffing: CMAP staff

Timing: FY26 Q1 initiation

CMAP will develop a coordinated effort to engage regional and local economic development directors on a regular basis (quarterly/bi-annually/annually) to discuss issues, challenges, opportunities, and threats to the regional and local economy, featuring guest speakers, panel discussions, etc. Could align with the REC for agenda topics, guest speakers, etc. Could culminate in an annual networking event. *(EDA does this for EDDs throughout the country; we would replicate at the local level. Also similar to the Kane County Planners Forum).*

# Regional/Community Development Impact Analysis

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|---|---|
| SME/Program Manager: | Tony Manno |
| Staffing: | Consultant w/CMAP staff |
| Timing: | TBD |
| Budget: | Staff time, ~$10,000 |

Analysis of developments in the region or a specific community from the past 5-10 years. Compare changes to demographics, school enrollment, parking, traffic (consultant study), public safety, and other factors included in the development approval process. Make recommendations to zoning and policy based on findings.

# RFP Development

| | |
|---|---|
| SME/Program Manager: | Tony Manno |
| Staffing: | CMAP staff |
| Timing: | FY26 Q2 |
| Budget: | TBD |

CMAP will work with communities who own a site or sites ready for redevelopment (including having a vision plan in place) to develop an RFP; this could be paired with a ULI Developer Discussion; currently we provide a summary report of the discussion, but typically do not provide further assistance due to our capacity/bandwidth.

# Development Opportunity Site Inventory

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|---|---|
| SME/Program Manager: | Tony Manno |
| Staffing: | CMAP staff |
| Timing: | FY26 Q3 |
| Budget: | TBD |

Development opportunity site inventory (the “donut holes in NDD).

# Regional Economy Framework

SME/Program Manager: Tony Manno

Staffing: CMAP staff w/consultant support

Timing: FY26 Q2

CMAP will develop an Economic Competitiveness (Resilience?) Strategy to create a shared vision and goals for the future of the region's economy. The strategy will be developed with stakeholders across the region that are working on economic development at the regional, sub regional, and local scales. Key stakeholders include GCEP, REC, public agencies, economic development entities, and anchor institutions such as medical centers, universities, and large private employers—to reflect the interconnected nature of economic systems. *(This would be a CEDS+ for our region, since many counties already have their own CEDS).*

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# Zoning Code Audits

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|---|---|
| SME/Program Manager: | Jaemi Jackson |
| Staffing: | CMAP staff w/consultant support |
| Timing: | TBD |
| Budget: | Staff time, ~$40,000 |

- Community identifies a priority (walkable main street, resilient neighborhood, increase housing options, etc).
- CMAP team reviews zoning code and other local policies
- Review of peer community best practices and case studies
- Recommendation document with redline of code changes and/or provide model code

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# CMAP in your City

| | |
|---|---|
| SME/Program Manager: | Jaemi Jackson |
| Staffing: | CMAP staff |
| Timing: | FY26 Q2 |
| Budget: | TBD |

Review existing placemaking / public spaces / 3rd spaces; review existing programming and make recommendations for improved placemaking, accessibility, and programming. Pop-up events facilitated by CMAP. *Think: small-scale POPcourts.*

# Mini Streetscape Improvement Planning

**REMOVED FROM PROJECT LIST**
This project closely relates to transportation and not in line with the non-transportation focus of RPA funds

| | |
|---|---|
| SME/Program Manager: | Jaemi Jackson |
| Staffing: | CMAP staff w/consultant support |
| Timing: | TBD |
| Budget: | ~$50,000 |

- Visioning
- Visual preference surveys for street furniture and materials (lighting, planters, benches, trash, etc.)
- Branding and wayfinding signage, façade improvements
- Rec document with materials, location placement, and cost estimates
- May require Landscape Architect/marketing consultant

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# Downtown Subarea Plans

| | |
|---|---|
| SME/Program Manager: | Tony Manno? Jaemi? |
| Staffing: | CMAP staff w/Consultant |
| Timing: | TBD |
| Budget: | $50,000 - $150,000 |

CMAP will assess a downtown within a community and provide a subarea plan, with a focus on communities not served by Metra. This process involves an analysis of existing land use, zoning, and policies, market, and other existing conditions. The deliverable will include policies and recommendations for land use, zoning, urban design, and transportation (parking, circulation, safety, and accessibility), and identify key sites for development and placemaking.

# Participatory Budgeting

**REMOVED FROM PROJECT LIST**
This project is already funded by UWP and not in line with the non-transportation focus of RPA funds

| | |
|---|---|
| SME/Program Manager: | Patrick Day |
| Staffing: | CMAP staff w/consultant support |
| Timing: | TBD |
| Budget: | TBD |

- Work with communities to review their CIP and current plans.
- Help develop participatory budgeting model with recs of what to include, criteria, etc.

# Brownfields Strategy

| | |
|---|---|
| SME/Program Manager: | Enrique |
| Staffing: | CMAP staff w/Consultant |
| Timing: | FY26 Q2 |
| Budget: | TBD |

**For communities with brownfield inventories. The strategy would prioritize sites for redevelopment, ideal uses based on plans/engagement and context, and steps and resources for attracting investments. Site assessments and guidance for underutilized parcels.** ***(See: RRPC Rutland, Vermont).***

# Targeted Climate Adaptation Design

| | |
|---|---|
| SME/Program Manager: | TBD |
| Staffing: | CMAP staff w/consultant support |
| Timing: | TBD |
| Budget: | TBD |

Using the flood susceptibility tool, analysis of flood-prone (or heat-prone) areas of a community and development of design options and cost estimates to mitigate impacts.