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## **Erin Aleman named new Executive Director of the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning**

*Aleman will take the helm in July from the agency's current Executive Director Joseph C. Szabo, who will retire at the end of June*

CHICAGO, June 20, 2019 – At its June 19 meeting, the Board of the region's comprehensive planning agency the [Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning](http://www.cmap.illinois.gov) (CMAP) unanimously selected Erin Aleman as its next executive director, effective July 15, concluding a national search.

Aleman will be responsible for the operations of CMAP, the award-winning regional planning organization for the northeastern Illinois counties of Cook, DuPage, Kane, Kendall, Lake, McHenry, and Will. Among Aleman's immediate priorities will be implementation of [ON TO 2050](#), metropolitan Chicago's long-range plan adopted in October 2018.

Aleman is an accomplished leader with extensive public sector experience implementing transportation and land use policies. She currently serves as vice president of Metro Strategies and previously served as director of the Office of Planning and Programming at the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT). There, she oversaw more than 150 employees and IDOT's \$2.2 billion annual budget for statewide infrastructure. She was instrumental in establishing IDOT's performance-based initiatives to inform multimodal policy, planning, and programming of transportation resources across the state, and advancing public-private partnerships. Prior to IDOT, Aleman spent eight years at CMAP where she started as assistant planner and was ultimately promoted to principal planner. She was a key contributor to the agency's first comprehensive plan for the region, GO TO 2040.

"We are very pleased to welcome Erin back to CMAP and look forward to her leadership as the agency continues to work with communities and organizations across the region to implement the recommendations of ON TO 2050," said Palos Hills Mayor Gerald Bennett, chair of CMAP's Board. "Erin's vision and commitment to furthering the agency's partnerships will undoubtedly advance both the agency and the entire metropolitan region."

Aleman will succeed Joseph C. Szabo, who is retiring at the end of June after four years at the helm of CMAP and a 40-year career in public service.

“I am thrilled to return to CMAP, which plays a vital role not only in setting out long-range goals for the region and a plan to achieve them, but also in supporting the efforts of local communities to achieve their goals,” said Aleman. “I look forward to working with the staff and our many committed volunteers and partners in pursuit of our shared passion for a thriving Chicago metropolitan region.”

Also at the meeting, the Board recognized and thanked Szabo for his service to the agency and the entire region. Prior to CMAP, Szabo was the twelfth Administrator of the Federal Railroad Administration within the U.S. Department of Transportation, and Mayor of the Village of Riverdale, where he lived for more than 40 years.

“During my career I’ve had the pleasure of serving the public at the local, regional, state, and federal levels,” said Szabo. “Ending my career at CMAP brought all of those experiences full circle for me as we developed and began implementing ON TO 2050—a plan that fulfills state and federal mandates, advances regional priorities, and helps our region’s 284 communities prosper.”

For more information, please contact Tina Fassett Smith, Principal, Communications at [tsmith@cmap.illinois.gov](mailto:tsmith@cmap.illinois.gov) or 312-386-8786.

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### **About CMAP**

The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) is our region’s comprehensive planning organization. The agency and its partners developed and are now implementing ON TO 2050, a new long-range plan to help the seven counties and 284 communities of northeastern Illinois implement strategies that address transportation, housing, economic development, open space, the environment, and other quality-of-life issues. See [www.cmap.illinois.gov](http://www.cmap.illinois.gov) for more information.