

GO TO **2040**  
Imagine that...  
[www.GOTO2040.org](http://www.GOTO2040.org)

# REGIONAL VISION

for Metropolitan Chicago



*Imagine that...*



Chicago Metropolitan  
Agency for Planning

## Introduction | *Imagining the Future*

**GO TO 2040** is the metropolitan Chicago region's first truly comprehensive planning campaign. Its growth strategies will help northeastern Illinois accommodate an anticipated 2.8 million new residents and 1.8 million jobs in the next three decades. Scheduled for completion in 2010 by the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP), the plan will shape our region's transportation system and land-use patterns, while addressing the natural environment, economic development, housing, education, human services, and other quality-of-life factors such as health, employment, and arts and culture. The **GO TO 2040** process includes numerous opportunities for the public to get involved in planning for a brighter future.

This process has begun with the Regional Vision for 2040, which this document describes. The vision was developed by CMAP and its stakeholders and then revised based on public comment. Building on prior regional plans, the initial vision statements were drafted by participants at a visioning workshop in September 2007. The statements were then refined after broader public feedback via surveys and public meetings. (A full description of the public visioning process is online at [www.GOTO2040.org/vision.aspx](http://www.GOTO2040.org/vision.aspx).)

This document also includes photographs of the Chicago region taken as part of a photography contest sponsored by CMAP in summer and fall 2007. Text is sometimes included adjacent to the photographs; these are descriptions written by the photographer. In other places, the document includes sidebars in orange brackets with quotes from residents of the region concerning their visions for 2040. Some of these were gathered from middle and high school students during a series of vision contests held in spring 2008, while others were collected from comments at public meetings held in winter and spring 2008.

Based on all of these inputs, the Regional Vision is expressed as what the region "will" be like in 2040, as distinct from what it "would," "could," or "should" be. This is an affirmation of the confidence in a brighter future for which metropolitan Chicago is known worldwide.

Building on the shared values of our region expressed in this vision, the **GO TO 2040** plan will identify policies, strategies, and investments needed for the region to realize its potential. The next step in our comprehensive planning process is to determine ways of measuring the ideas and concepts in the Regional Vision. CMAP is doing this through the development of regional indicators in partnership with the Chicago Community Trust.

The realization of the Regional Vision will require coordination among all regional decision-makers, including government, the private sector, non-profit and philanthropic groups, and individual citizens. Many of the issues that will be addressed in the **GO TO 2040** plan go beyond the areas of land use and transportation planning, the traditional focus of regional planning agencies like CMAP. Achieving the Regional Vision will require partnerships with organizations that are typically outside long-range planning processes. For more information on the **GO TO 2040** planning process and how to participate, please visit [www.GOTO2040.org](http://www.GOTO2040.org).

*Imagine how the world would be  
About 30 years from now  
Hover cars...and  
Shooting stars we'd ride to the  
moon and back...  
O.K. Well maybe not  
But things are going to change*

*Alicia M. Thomas  
Whitney Young High School*



*"Calumet Beach"*

Overall Winner, *"Images of Northeastern Illinois"* photography contest

Photo by Tom Rand

## The GO TO 2040 Regional Vision

The Regional Vision describes our desired future in terms of the region's quality of life, natural environment, social systems, economy, infrastructure, and governance. Throughout all of these vision themes, three other cross-cutting issues recur: **sustainability, equity** and **innovation**. Each is critical to CMAP's work on the **GO TO 2040** plan.

To address **sustainability**, we must meet the needs of the present without compromising the future. A high quality of life in the region will be possible only if the leaders of today and the future take significant actions to ensure the sustainability of the region's systems and activities. Between now and 2040, our leaders will weigh the environmental, economic, and social impacts of their decisions, both locally and globally, and will consider the needs of future generations.

*"If I could change one thing about our region, I would...provide regional incentives for micro-energy solutions such as home and business solar electric and hot water heaters, individual and community wind turbine systems, community water reclamation initiatives, and the like... Communities can have cleaner air, water, and a higher quality of life if we plan correctly and make the right choices for the long term."*

*Resident, McHenry County*

### *"Public Art"*

*Since its installation at the Robert O. Atcher Municipal Center (Village of Schaumburg) in the summer of 2006, Don Lawler and Meg White's impressive sculpture, "Awaking Muse," has become an instant hit with local kids, who migrate toward it during festivals and events held on the grounds.*

Photo and words by Rob Pileckis





*“In 2040, we have broken all the barriers of segregation. From racial, social, economic, political or any other barrier imaginable... They no longer exist in our world.”*

*Tyler M. Lawrence  
Whitney Young  
High School*

*Students at Whitney Young High School participate in a GO TO 2040 “Bold Ideas” event to help envision a brighter future for the region.*

Photo by CMAP staff



*“These are my four sons. My youngest son is disabled, but that hasn’t stopped us from exploring the forests around our home. The proximity of the Hickory Creek Preserve, the asphalt covered and well maintained trails, and wheel-chair friendly geography of the Will County Forest Preserve locations make it much easier on us as a family... The fact that there are so many recreational outdoor areas in Will County is a blessing to us. I know these parks didn’t happen by accident — they were part of a balanced and well conceived metropolitan plan.”*

*Photo and words by Karl Maurer*

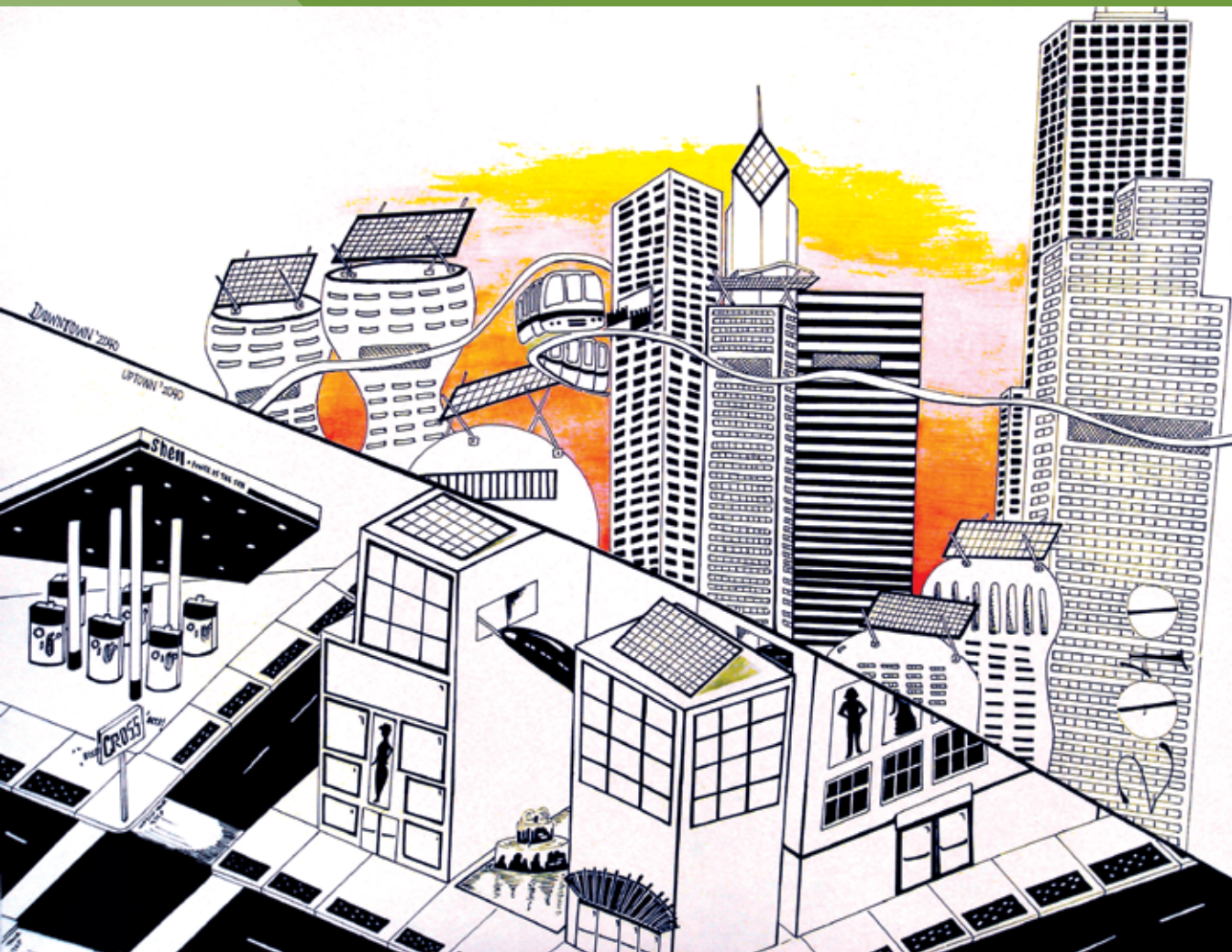
The region will be strengthened by taking an active approach to **equity**. The benefits and burdens caused by the region’s investments and policies will be fairly distributed to all parts of the region. In addition, these benefits and burdens will be shared between groups of people, regardless of age, gender, income, race, ethnicity, culture, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, or disability status. All residents will have the opportunity to access the region’s economic, educational, housing, and other assets. Also, the diversity of the region’s many cultures will be celebrated as one of our strengths.

The region will embrace **innovation** and use creative strategies to meet our challenges and opportunities. Our innovation will drive economic growth and keep our region competitive in the changing global economy. It will also allow us to address environmental, energy, social, and infrastructure problems. The region will be on the forefront of developing new technologies, with innovative approaches to providing public services and increasing cooperation between public and private sectors.

*“Then”*

Overall Winner, *“Bold Ideas”* contest  
Whitney Young High School

Carrie Chui and Cody Meuris



*In 2040, the northeastern Illinois region will be a magnet attracting new, diverse residents, businesses, and investments from all over the world. The region will be known for a high quality of life, based on its sustainable, equitable, innovative, and inclusive approaches to planning.*

Regional planning and development will be aimed at achieving the highest possible **quality of life** and well-being for all of its residents. The region will consist of attractive, interdependent communities with distinct identities. These identities will be built on their histories, natural and physical assets, architecture, and aesthetic preferences, reflecting the uniqueness of their residents and businesses. Northeastern Illinois will remain a global destination for tourism and culture because of its internationally-recognized architecture, arts institutions, entertainment options, and other cultural and natural amenities. Our communities will have access to an abundance of art forms, our residents will enjoy the opportunity to participate in various art forms, and our region will continue to sustain world-class artistic and cultural institutions. The region will have diverse housing, transportation, and recreation choices, and its residents will have equitable access to employment, education, health care, and other regional assets. Through appropriate infrastructure investments, the region will remain connected to global networks of commodities movement, energy, and information, all of which are necessary to maintain a high quality of life.

*“A View Southward”*

Photo by Perry Slade





*“If I could change one thing about my neighborhood, I would... make it more of a walkable neighborhood, meaning a good quality grocery store within walking distance, more small shops, and heck, a good neighborhood pub to get a beer.”*

*Resident, Cook County*

*“View looking west on Armitage Avenue”  
Historic preservation is important,  
and this is a stunning example.*

Photo and words by Roseann O’Laughlin





*“I love seeing kids form a relationship with art at a young age. I think appreciation for the arts begins with an innate curiosity that all kids have. In this image, I also sense that each child is formulating his or her own interpretation of the pieces on display.”*

*Photo and words by Rob Pileckis*



*“Japanese Snow”*  
*The picture illustrates the quiet beauty of winter.*

Photo and words by Patrícia Linwood

*“Autumn in full”*

Photo by Kazuya Kawamura





*In 2040, decision making in northeastern Illinois will be informed by considerations of environmental health, energy use, and water supply.*

The region will be a world leader in implementing innovative measures to protect the **environment**, including air quality, biodiversity, natural and human communities, water quality and supply, and the overall ecological health and diversity of the region. The region’s nationally-recognized system of open space — including forest preserves, conservation districts, and parks — will continue to shape regional identity and contribute to the health of our residents. Especially along sensitive waterways, open space will be preserved and expanded, creating green infrastructure networks that enhance people’s connection with nature and serve as habitat corridors. Lake Michigan and the lakefront will be protected in a coordinated effort with other states, regions, and countries as an irreplaceable natural resource for biodiversity, health, recreation, tourism, and economic prosperity. The region will actively minimize and mitigate the environmental effects of its activities — including climate change — and will be prepared to adapt to future environmental conditions.

*“If I could preserve one thing about my neighborhood... it would be the unique architecture of my neighborhood, as well as the parks along Lake Michigan, including Promontory Point.”*

*Resident, Cook County*

*“Survivor”*

*This photo shows the resiliency of wildlife in Northern Illinois, here, a Black-Crowned Night Heron; that there is the possibility of life along this urban corridor not just to exist, but to thrive. At the same time, the injury to the bird’s leg shows that regardless of how well things may seem, how much progress there appears to be, it should not be taken for granted. There is still work to be done.*

Photo and words by Frank Sochacki

Our region will consume less **energy** and fewer natural resources. The region will remain an innovative leader in green building techniques and conservation design, promoting energy efficiency and conservation of water and other resources. The region will also take national leadership in the research, development, and production of green energy. The region's residents and businesses will use energy conscientiously through individual actions such as recycling and use of energy-efficient products. Regional energy consumption for transportation will be reduced by abundant transportation options that provide alternatives to driving alone, by mixed-use infill development that allows many trips to be made using alternative transportation modes, and by a balanced supply of jobs and housing that limits the need to travel long distances for work. New development and redevelopment will be designed to limit energy use and minimize disturbance of sensitive environmental land.

*"Bridge to the Past"*

*This photo was taken at Mastodon Lake, at Phillips Park in Aurora on a foggy morning. The lake was dug in the 1930's and Mastodon bones were found. The bridge and the fog symbolize our natural area and its forgotten past.*

Photo and words by Randy Johnson





*“geese and skyline”*

Photo by Rex Flodstrom

**Water** will be treated as a critical natural resource, and water resource planning will be a high regional priority. The region will continue to be known for its high quality of water and recognized for its efforts to protect it. The quality of water supplies for human use will be protected, with water demand and supply managed responsibly to ensure equitable availability. The importance of adequate water supplies to the region’s prosperity will be recognized and reflected in integrated planning and development decisions. Water quantity and quality will be sufficient to sustain aquatic ecosystems throughout the region.

*“In our world today there seems to be an increasing ‘awareness’ of global warming and being green. Yet what is awareness or planning if nothing is actually done?”*

*Jose A. Martinez  
Whitney Young High School*

*In 2040, our region will have equitable and inclusive housing, and social systems that foster an educated, healthy, safe, and involved populace.*

Our leaders will recognize that safe, decent, affordable, and stable **housing** is essential for families, individuals, communities, and businesses. The region will support housing that provides all residents with access to quality education, jobs, health care, cultural and social amenities, and transportation, allowing communities and businesses to attract and retain critical workers. For residents of all incomes, the region will supply a range of housing options, broadly distributed throughout the region. Because most housing is provided by the private market, policies and programs will ensure that the private market is able to provide a full range of housing options. When the private market cannot meet the needs of all households, public programs will support housing that provides access to opportunity for all of the region's residents.

*Chicago will bloom like a rose  
Beautiful until it bends  
Backwards like a gymnast  
Outside the city will pollinate  
With black faces  
White flight in reverse like  
Hummingbirds  
Swift  
Bronzeville will lose luster  
Polished until dull*

*Nathaniel A. Marshall  
Whitney Young High School*



*“If I could change one thing about our region...I would stop the violence in the County and have money for affordable housing.”*

*Resident, Cook County*

*“I always believe that the purpose of art is to enhance the environment where we live. This picture represents that belief.”*

Photo and words by Kelly Zeng





*“Schaumburg’s Farmers Market”*

*The Schaumburg Farmers Market takes place every Friday from mid-June until mid-October in the parking lot of the American Indian Center’s Trickster Gallery in Town Square, at the intersection of Roselle and Schaumburg Roads. The market features a cornucopia of homegrown fruits, vegetables, flowers, and baked goods.*

Photo and words by Mary Jo Follert

Regional planning decisions will consider and improve the **health** of residents of our region. Residents across our region will choose healthy lifestyles that benefit from the availability of open space, transportation and recreation options, healthy food, clean water, and clean air. The region’s residents will be able to access our strong system of health care and medical institutions, protecting public health, social development, and economic competitiveness.

In 2040, the northeastern Illinois region will be among the **safest** urban areas in the nation. Our communities will be safer due to improved design and walkability, crime prevention strategies, effective law enforcement, improved access to opportunity, individual social responsibility, and increased civic involvement. The region and its residents will be served by robust, comprehensive systems for preventing and managing incidents — both large and small scale — related to public health, transportation, stormwater, fire, natural disasters, and national security.

*“If I could change one thing about our region...I would create top-rated public schools in the City of Chicago. I don’t want to move out of the city when I start a family.”*

*Resident, Cook County*

In 2040, the region’s **education** system will be strong and successful. The region’s schools will have funding adequate to ensure that every child will be educated to the limits of his or her capability. Learning opportunities beginning with early childhood will prepare young people across the region for a dynamic future that will enable them to participate fully in society and be productively employed. Appropriately funded educational institutions and training opportunities will allow all residents to benefit from affordable and seamless life-long learning. Our world-renowned institutions of higher education will continue to be centers for learning, innovation, and research, educating the region’s students and attracting students and researchers from around the globe.

*In 2040, the economy of northeastern Illinois will enjoy a global status that ensures superior job opportunities throughout the region for all socio-economic groups.*

The **economic strengths** of our region's interdependent communities will complement each other, with the entire region benefitting from its international recognition as a diversified center of commerce and its location at the center of the nation. Long-term economic benefits will be created by making efficient use of resources and existing infrastructure and by enhancing our environment, public health, social equity, cultural amenities, education systems, and physical infrastructure. Investments in the region's human capital will occur through workforce development programs or other training that prepares students and workers to excel in the diversified jobs of the future. The region will be a center of innovation across all disciplines and will encourage creativity and entrepreneurial activity. The importance of freight and intermodal systems to our economy will be recognized and supported through regional policies, investments, and infrastructure decisions. The region's agriculture, which takes advantage of our fertile farmland, will be valued as an important regional resource because of the economic contribution it makes, the food and fuel it produces, the scenic value it provides, and the soil and water it protects.

*“If I could preserve one thing about our region...I would like to preserve Chicago's place as a world renowned global center of financial and cultural institutions.”*

*Resident, Cook County*

*“View of Commerce”*

*This photo represents the common view of the city with its commerce center and financial district hugging the Chicago River, and the many interconnecting bridges which connect the rest of the city to the central downtown.*

Photo and words by Zachary Henry





*“Glassblower”*

*We make things. We relax in the creative process. This is an instructor, among the many artisans who are willing to teach others who want to learn their craft.*

Photo and words by Kurt Kramer

We will maximize the competitive advantage of existing physical infrastructure by encouraging **reinvestment** in our communities through mixed-use, compact development and redevelopment that emphasizes infill. Reinvestment will occur through both public and private means, will focus on both people and places, and will contribute to community prosperity, affordability, and vitality across the region. In particular, reinvestment in our existing communities will be supported by the region's existing multi-modal transportation system, which will be maintained and enhanced, leading to environmentally sensitive and fiscally efficient outcomes.

*"Hurrying Home"*

*There is beauty even in the cold that sometimes grips our region. We grow up hearty or take on the trait when we move to northeastern Illinois. We embrace the challenges.*

Photo and words by Kurt Kramer



Through investments that reflect regional priorities, the region will have a broad range of integrated and seamless **transportation** choices that are safe, accessible, easy to navigate, affordable, and coordinated with nearby land use. Our transportation system, which is the region's link to the global economy, will give northeastern Illinois a competitive advantage over other metropolitan areas. The elements of our regional transportation system — including interstates and toll roads, arterial and local roads, public transit including paratransit, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, airports, freight and intermodal facilities, and water-based transportation options — will be maintained and strengthened through continued investment. Our region will use new technologies and other innovative means to address our transportation challenges and minimize their environmental impacts. The freight system will be improved to increase efficiency and interconnectedness, strengthening our position as a national and international center of goods movement and intermodal logistics. Through investments and policies that support freight, our transportation system will be planned in a way that improves the movement of goods, minimizes conflict between freight and passenger transportation, and mitigates impacts on local communities.



*In 2040, governance systems in northeastern Illinois will feature a high degree of coordination and civic involvement.*

The region's governance systems will be characterized by high degrees of **intergovernmental coordination and planning**. Leaders will recognize the interdependence of our communities and will work across political boundaries to address issues affecting multiple jurisdictions. While celebrating the diversity of our municipalities, the region will plan collaboratively for mutual benefit to promote efficiency and equity in planning our region's economic, environmental, social, educational, and infrastructure systems. Planning for physical infrastructure and the use of land will be coordinated, creating links to social systems like health care, public safety, education, and social services. On major inter-regional issues, our leaders will coordinate with neighboring regions in Wisconsin, Indiana, Michigan, and Canadian provinces. The region will make decisions concerning physical infrastructure that consider long-term sustainability in terms of both operational and capital expenses.

*"Peeping Dragon"*

Photo by Patricia Linwood







*“If I could change one thing about my neighborhood...I would want for the citizens to feel pride and respect for their neighborhood and community. A pride and respect where people would actively work together to keep the neighborhood beautiful and safe.”*

*Resident, Cook County*

*“Downtown Naperville – Holiday Lights”*

*Every year Downtown Naperville is illuminated for the winter holidays starting with a Thanksgiving weekend kick off event entitled “Hometown Holidays.” During Hometown Holidays you can always count on Santa Claus to flip a switch and light more than 300,000 holiday lights – transforming downtown Naperville into a winter wonderland. Thousands of families in the community come to downtown Naperville to witness the “Grand Illumination!”*

Photo and words by City of Naperville

*“View looking north on Michigan Avenue – Wrigley Building, Chicago”  
Michigan Avenue was connected through a vision in the 1909 plan and is clearly vibrant in this shot.*

Photo and words by Roseann O’Laughlin



*“Freedom”*

*This photo is of “Freedom,” one of the bald eagles on display at the Phillips Park Zoo in Aurora. It symbolizes how proud we are as a country.*

Photo and words by Randy Johnson

Planning processes will thoroughly inform residents about issues and decisions to ensure meaningful **civic involvement**. Between now and 2040, our residents will have the opportunity to take civic pride in their communities and will actively help shape action on the issues that contribute to a livable region. Planning processes will encourage, respect, and incorporate contributions from people of all backgrounds, ethnicities, cultures, and ages. The region’s strong history of advocacy by neighborhood, civic, and business organizations will continue, and these organizations will contribute to public policy decisions. Our residents will do volunteer work that contributes to the well-being of the region, and they will participate in government by voting in each election.

*“If I could preserve one thing about my neighborhood... it would be the sense of family among neighbors. We watch out for each other and lend a hand when needed.”*

*Resident, DuPage County*

*“Intro”*

*I like the serenity of the morning sunrise over the lake.  
In direct opposition, quite literally, is the chaos of the  
morning commuter traffic on Lake Shore Drive.  
There's a suggestion of balance in knowing what's  
present, but not shown in the photo.*

Photo and words by Albert Ellenich



## The *GO TO 2040* Regional Vision | **Next Steps**

The development of a shared regional vision is a critical part of the *GO TO 2040* planning process, but our work does not end here. The next step in our comprehensive planning process is to determine ways of measuring the ideas and concepts in this vision, which CMAP is doing through the development of regional indicators in partnership with the Chicago Community Trust.

These indicators will not only track our progress toward the future described in the regional vision, they will also help to prioritize the policies, strategies, and investments that our region needs to make to realize our vision.

In 2009, CMAP will present several future scenarios, or possible courses of action, that will move our region toward our shared vision. This work will culminate in summer 2009, when CMAP will gather public input on alternative scenarios through a series of events that will be linked with the celebration of the centennial anniversary of Daniel Burnham's *Plan of Chicago*. Ultimately, the *GO TO 2040* plan will be adopted in fall 2010. For more information on the *GO TO 2040* planning process and how to participate, please visit [www.GOTO2040.org](http://www.GOTO2040.org).

*“If I could change one thing about our region... it would be the phrase: ‘That’s how it’s always been.’”*

*Resident, McHenry County*

# The CMAP Region

McHenry

Lake

Lake Michigan

Kane

DuPage

Chicago

Kendall

Cook

Will

Aux Sable township  
Grundy County



Chicago Metropolitan  
Agency for Planning

233 S. Wacker Drive, Suite 800  
Chicago, IL 60606

[www.cmap.illinois.gov](http://www.cmap.illinois.gov)

voice 312-454-0400  
fax 312-454-0411



[www.GOTO2040.org](http://www.GOTO2040.org)