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CMAP and its partners are holding a series of ON TO 2050 Big Ideas Forums to engender debate about topics — Climate, Economy, Government, Housing, Land Use & Development, Natural Resources, Transportation, and more — that will shape the region’s future. Participants will influence the policy emphases of the ON TO 2050 comprehensive regional plan as it proceeds toward adoption in October 2018.

Follow #2050BigIdeas on Twitter @onto2050 to add your big ideas for the region’s future.

Special thanks to Metropolitan Mayors Caucus and Metropolitan Planning Council for co-sponsoring this event.



# ON TO 2050 FORUM CLOSER TO HOME



**FEBRUARY 28 2017**  
**METROPOLITAN PLANNING COUNCIL**

# CREATING A BALANCED REGIONAL HOUSING SUPPLY BY 2050

**February 28, 2017**  
**Metropolitan Planning Council**

**8:30 a.m.** Check-in

**9:00 a.m.** Program

## *Welcome*

Jeffrey Sherwin, Mayor, City of Northlake  
Chair, Metropolitan Mayors Caucus Housing Committee

Bob Dean, Deputy Executive Director  
Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

## *Panel Discussion*

### *Moderator*

Mary Ellen Podmolik,  
Associate Managing Editor/Business  
Chicago Tribune

### *Panelists*

Nancy Firfer, Senior Advisor  
Metropolitan Planning Council

Zach Lowe, Founder and Principal  
Residential Planning Partners

Mary Ellen Tamasy, President  
Lake County Residential Development Corporation

**10:00 a.m.** Responses to written audience questions

**10:30 a.m.** Closing remarks

MarySue Barrett, President  
Metropolitan Planning Council



**Mary Ellen Podmolik** is associate managing editor/business for the Chicago Tribune. She previously was the deputy business editor and a reporter covering the housing market. Podmolik has previously worked at the Chicago Sun-Times and Southtown Economist, and was a contributor to Crain's Chicago Business and cnbc.com. She got her start in journalism at the Kokomo Indiana Tribune. In her role as both a Tribune columnist and reporter, Podmolik covered every aspect of the 2009 housing crash, its aftermath, and uneven local recovery.



**Nancy Firfer** is a senior advisor supporting Metropolitan Planning Council's work to encourage balanced housing in local communities across metropolitan Chicago and deepening its partnerships with elected officials, particularly through her work on "Homes for a Changing Region." Firfer spent 24 years as an elected official, including two terms as village president of Glenview and time on local boards of education. She has held several other community positions and currently co-chairs CMAP's Housing Committee. In 2016, Governor Bruce Rauner appointed her as a member of the State Housing Task Force.



**Zach Lowe** is founder and principal of Residential Planning Partners. Lowe has more than 18 years of experience providing market research, analysis, and development consulting services to a wide variety of public and private sector clients. His work has led him to client engagements in dozens of markets spanning 23 states. Lowe's experience includes both the public and private sectors with clients such as municipalities, planning agencies, private builders, large development companies, lenders, and investors. Prior to founding Residential Planning Partners, Lowe served as director of client services for Tracy Cross & Associates, Inc.



**Mary Ellen Tamasy** is president of the Lake County Residential Development Corporation, an organization that has developed and preserved more than 1,362 units of rental and homeowner-occupied affordable housing in Lake and McHenry counties. Tamasy has worked for and with nonprofits, government entities, and for-profit corporations in northern Illinois suburbs to develop affordable housing programs and projects for more than two decades. She first came to Illinois in September 1993 as the executive director of the Lake County Affordable Housing Commission & Corporation. She has also directed the activities of the Highland Park Community Land Trust and Housing Opportunity Development Corporation.