In the 1930s, far too many Chicagoans lived in overcrowded, rat-infested, ramshackle tenement slums. The Metropolitan Housing Council (MHC), founded in 1934, was dedicated to improving the city's housing stock: enforcing standards, making more inspectors, and the Women's Division surveys these slums. MHC incorporates as a non-profit organization in 1935, opening membership to the public. By the 1930s, MHC influences the passage of the Illinois Housing Authority and the Chicago Housing Authority, and leads to Chicago's first public housing, the Chicago Housing Authority. They wasted no time in promoting neighborhood improvement, racially integrated housing, and the Chicago Housing Authority. Meanwhile, in 1953, a shocking Chicago Daily News series raised public awareness of the city's squalid, dangerous living conditions. An MHPC study determines that slum prevention costs far more than it saves, and the Council successfully argues in favor of closing the nation's first public housing complex. The Council successfully drafted Chicago's first-ever Housing Code in 1952. The city government adopts MHPC's proposals for healthy regional government, which leads to the establishment of the Chicago Housing Authority and Federal housing and urban renewal programs. The Council helps establish the Chicago Regional Planning Commission, the Northeastern Illinois Planning Board, the Metropolitan Planning Board, the Chicago Regional Planning Board, the Illinois State Planning Board, and the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Board. The Council also helps establish the Metropolitan Council on Urban Progress. The Committee addresses the need for improved public transportation, and the Council establishes itself as an authority on transportation planning. The Council helps establish the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The Council also helps establish the Center for Neighborhood Housing Development, which by 1961, had served 33,400 families. The Council creates the Meadows Development, a neighborhood revitalization, which by 1976, had served 10,000 families. Indeed, as Chicagoland grew in size and complexity, the Council considered few tasks outside the purview of its mission. By the 1970s, the Council celebrated the 1974 establishment of a Greater Chicago Authority. Through its work on the Committee, the Council emerged as an authority on transportation planning, an idea to create the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.