



Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

233 South Wacker Drive
Suite 800, Sears Tower
Chicago, IL 60606

312-454-0400 (voice)
312-454-0411 (fax)
www.cmap.illinois.gov

Freight Committee Meeting Minutes August 14, 2008 - 10.00.a.m DuPage County Conference Room

Members Present:

Tom Zapler, Joe Alonzo, George Billows,
David Chandler, Doug Grane, Reggie
Greenwood, Jeff Harris, Rob Hoffman, J. Lee
Hutchins, Jim LaBelle, Steve Lazzara, Dean
Mentjes, Gary Perry, Laurence Rohter, Norm
West

Staff Present:

Roseann O'Laughlin, Tom Murtha, Paul Reise

Others Present:

Kate Agasle, Chuck Allen, Kirsten Bennett,
Becky Blaine, Cherlen Daigle, Jim Daly, Chris
DiPalma, Chris DiPalma, Jim Messmore,
Gerald Rawling, Mark Rinnan, Mark Schwinn,
Dan Strick, Emily Tapia Lopez, Curt Wiley,
Erika Witzke

1.0 Call to Order

The meeting was called to order 10:05 a.m. by Co-Chairman Tom Zapler.

2.0 Welcome and Introductions

Introductions began with Tom Zapler. Roseann O'Laughlin and Mr. Zapler welcomed new committee members Steve Lazzara of Will County and the Coalition of Governments, Jeff Harris of the CTCO, and Reggie Greenwood of the SSMMA.

3.0 Agenda changes and announcements

Ms. O'Laughlin announced that Jeff Harris would provide the CREATE update during Agenda item 7.

4.0 Approval of Minutes

Mr. Billows made a motion to approve the minutes of July 10, 2008. Mr. Hoffman seconded. Vote: All ayes. Motion carried.

5.0 Update: *Indicators Project*

Andrew Williams-Clark gave a brief overview of *Indicators Project* work to date. The overall data set is large. CMAP has transportation data but other data will be provided by outside consultants.

“Tracking” indicators have been drafted. These indicators must be regionally appropriate, will be updated through 2040 and broad stakeholder agreement should be made for each indicator in terms of positive and negative changes. Of the 20 tracking indicators, 5 are freight related. Tom Murtha explained that the full freight indicators list will keep track of freight data specifics but the *tracking* indicators are larger perspective as tied to the region *Vision*.

The final approval by the CMAP Policy Committee of the tracking indicators is expected to occur in Oct.

The committee discussed various items that should be considered for tracking such as diesel fuel consumption, volumes, and vehicle speeds.

Norm West stated that he felt the higher committees are not getting the message that freight is important to the region and reminded everyone that freight should have been a separate *Vision* statement item. David Chandler stated that freight is under transportation only and should be included in economic development and land use as well.

Mr. West stated that the committee has not been very specific about freight related indicators. Mr. Zapler agreed and stated that the committee has made input to the staff.

Joe Alonzo asked if the Transportation Committee has any issues with the number of freight indicators. Mr. Murtha answered that the committee did express concern and that staff responded that the freight indicators have many secondary measurements and have been prioritized.

Mr. West asked what the direction of planning will be. Mr. Williams-Clark answered that the Freight Snapshot should cover it.

Jim LaBelle suggested that the committee review all indicators, particularly those related to freight. Mr. Williams-Clark will provide the full list of Indicators to the committee. Anyone who wishes to make additional comments on the Indicators should contact Andrew Williams-Clark at awilliamsclark@cmapp.illinois.gov.

Information on the *Indicators* project can be found at:
<http://www.goto2040.org/indicators.aspx>

6.0 Update: Freight Snapshot

Ms. O’Laughlin provided an update on the *Freight Snapshot*. She explained that CMAP is close to acquiring freight data which will be used as the platform for the Snapshot. Also, progress has been initiated on a Freight Operations Strategy Report will feed into the Snapshot.

7.0 Project and Issue Updates

7.1 IIT Truck Parking and Rest Facility Study

Laurence Rohter provided an update of the study. He explained that the study findings included a shortage of facilities in the southern portion of the region. While facilities are limited in the northern portion as well, the study found that the need is strong in the southern area and not in the northern. Large fleets such as JB Hunt and Schneider provide trucker facilities. Most public facilities are used by independent companies.

Mr. Billows added that trucks must position themselves and struggle with where to rest and position. They may have hours available but no where to go. He indicated that the oasis is not large enough for overnight parking.

Mr. Rohter added that the study suggests that large lots that are primarily used during the day, such as commuter lots, be used for truck parking at night.

Steve Lazarra added that Will County has looked at the truck parking issue but is unsure how to address the issue. Mr. Rohter suggested that regional level agencies get together to discuss and the same for municipalities.

Mr. West suggested that CMAP get involved in this project and share concepts of how communities can address this issue.

7.2 CDOT Freight Initiatives

Joe Alonzo described a few freight initiatives the City of Chicago is currently working on. The first is an economic development study which will study 5 cases to determine the economic development opportunities along railroads rights-of-way. The study, to be completed by the end of the year, will determine major industries in Chicago and identify areas that are currently underdeveloped in the city.

The second initiative is a GIS based railroad atlas. The project is 90% complete and includes a database of 1700-1800 railroad structures, height information, trackage, aerial photography and other info. Mr. Alonzo will keep the group apprised of progress on

this project and others. Also, Brenda McGruder will present the results of the Downtown Freight Study at a future meeting.

7.3 CN Acquisition of the EJ&EW

Randy Blankenhorn gave an overview of CMAP's progress on responding to the EIS released as part of the acquisition deal. The EIS was released on July 25 and comments are due September 30, 2008. CMAP is currently drafting a response. Mr. Blankenhorn stated that the EIS does what it is legally required to do but does not address many questions imperative to CMAP's position. CMAP is interested in looking at region benefits.

Information related to the EIS and acquisition can be found at:

<http://www.stb.dot.gov/85256593004F576F.nsf/0/3D965D70CBED6BF58525749100457581?OpenDocument>

<http://www.stb.dot.gov/decisions/readingroom.nsf/WebDecisionID/39185?OpenDocument>

Mr. LaBelle stated that Chicago Metropolis 2020 has begun an economic development study of the proposed EJ&E acquisition.

7.4 CREATE Update

Jeff Harris provided a brief update of the CREATE project. He stated that effort is underway to secure funding in the next transportation authorization bill. The next phase of projects are larger than the first phase and will involve passenger service.

Information about the CREATE project can be found at:

<http://www.createprogram.org/>

8.0 Other Business

There was no other business.

9.0 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Thursday September 25 at 10am. Bob Heuer, Chief Economist for the American Trucking Associations will give a presentation to the group in the Cook County Room.

10.0 Meeting Adjourned, 11:40 a.m.