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Freight Committee Meeting Minutes September 25, 2008 - 10.00.a.m Cook County Conference Room

Members Present:

Tom Zapler, Joe Alonzo, George Billows, Doug Grane, Reggie Greenwood, Jeff Harris, Rob Hoffman, J. Lee Hutchins, Kazuya Kawamura, Jim LaBelle, Steve Lazzara, Dean Mentjes, Libby Ogard, Laurence Rohter, Norm West, Larry Wilson

Staff Present:

Roseann O'Laughlin, Shana Alford, Bob Dean, Todd Schmidt, Andrew Williams-Clark

Others Present:

Chuck Allen, Jack Bauer, Kirsten Bennett, Becky Blaine, Len Cannata, Charlen Daigle, Chris DiPalma, Kamee Dobbs, Jim Ford, Emily Hudson, Patti Killinger, Jim Kvedaras, Hugh O'Hara, Nick Pappas, Mark Rinnan, Liliance Rogada, Emily Tapia, Bill Thompson, Tammy Wieriak, A. Christopher Wilson, 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 stated that CMAP had drafted a letter in response to the EJ&E EIS and will present the highlights of the letter later in the agenda.

3.0 Agenda changes and announcements

There were no changes or announcements.

4.0 Approval of Minutes

Mr. Billows made a motion to approve the minutes of August 14, 2008. Mr. Harris seconded. Vote: All ayes. Motion carried.

5.0 Presentation: *Bob Costello, VP and Chief Economist of the American Trucking Associations*

Mr. Costello gave a presentation to the committee highlighting current trucking industry issues, impacts of rising fuel costs and what to expect in the near and long term. Mr. Costello is the Chief Economist of the American Trucking Associations which is the national trade association for the trucking industry. ITA is a member of ATA.

Mr. Costello began with a historic perspective of the trucking industry and outlined the growth of the industry in recent decades. He stated that trucks carry the most tonnage of any of the modes, accounting for 69% of total for all modes. Within trucking, truckload shipping represents the largest amount of the industry. This includes private and LTL carriers. He added that “for hire” trucking has slowed in growth in recent months.

Mr. Costello explained that the supply of trucks will decrease as businesses attempt to maximize use of available equipment. Excess trucks are being sold to other places such as Russia, Eastern Europe and South America. Additionally, in the past year, over 1900 trucking businesses have folded and driver shortage is and will continue to be a major issue in the industry.

Fuel is another issue that Mr. Costello addressed. He stated that for the first time, fuel surpassed labor as the highest cost to trucking businesses. Diesel fuel, which is used in many countries, is now a premium product. Diesel is 20-40% more efficient than other fuels and the trucking industry is expected to spend \$160 billion on fuel.

The industry is studying methods to improve fuel efficiency. The industry has advocated for reduced speed limits and methods to reduce truck idling. There is an offset to reduced speed limits in terms of time. Additionally, auxiliary power units have been added to trucks to reduce main engine idling when stopped.

Mr. Costello also stated that intermodal transport is expected to grow but trucks will still have 70% of the mode share.

Mr. West inquired if the ATA has studied truck only lanes. Mr. Costello answered yes, the group has studied the idea and suggests financing them with diesel tax increases. Mr. Costello added that ATA is interested in supporting a fee on containers.

6.0 Update: GO TO 2040: Scenario Construction and Indicators Project Update

Bob Dean gave a presentation on the Scenario Construction task as part of the GO TO 2040 plan process. He explained that the Indicators will measure progress and help evaluate policies and investments. The Scenarios are a combination of actions that are clustered and what the Indicators will track. A hybrid scenario will be constructed and 4 basic scenarios have been drafted for evaluation. The scenarios are categorized into 1) trend 2) preservation 3) physical infrastructure and 4) innovation.

Mr. Dean added that freight is mostly related to the 3rd scenario, physical infrastructure but is also related to the 2nd and 4th scenarios. The freight committee will be involved in review of freight related portions of this process.

Kazuya Kawamura inquired if scenarios are reactions to major occurrences or planning tools that we create. Mr. Dean answered that it is the latter. CMAP chose this method to be able to prioritize items and complete analysis.

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>

7.0 Update: Freight Snapshot

Ms. O'Laughlin provided an update on the *Freight Snapshot*. She explained that the CMAP has approved the sole source acquisition of TRANSEARCH freight data from Global Insight which will be used as the platform for the Snapshot. Also, progress has been made on a Freight Operations Strategy Report which will feed into the Snapshot. She added that the outline will be presented to the Transportation Committee on September 26 and open for comment.

8.0 Project and Issue Updates

8.1 EJ&E

Ms. O'Laughlin gave an update on CMAP actions for the EJ&E acquisition. The CMAP board discussed an EIS response letter at their last meeting. CMAP is concerned with analysis time horizon and the impacts to the SRA system.

Mr. LaBelle told the group that Chicago Metropolis 2020 is working on a report that will provide an evaluation of the economic impacts of the acquisition. The group will post a response to the EIS with this information and Mr. LaBelle will present the findings to the committee in the future.

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>

9.0 Other Business

There was no other business.

10.0 Date of Next Meeting

The future meetings will be on the following dates:

November 6

December 4

January 29, 2009

February 26, 2009

March 26, 2009

April 30, 2009

June 4, 2009

11.0 Meeting Adjourned, 12:05 p.m.