



Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

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DRAFT **Freight Committee Meeting Minutes** January 29, 2009

Offices of the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP)
DuPage County Conference Room
Suite 800, 233 S. Wacker Drive, Sears Tower, Chicago, Illinois

- Board Members:** George Billows-Illinois Trucking Association, David Chandler-CNT, Gregory Dreyer-ISTHA, Reggie Greenwood-SSMMA, David Grewe-CTCO, Dr. J. Lee Hutchins-AECOM, Kazuya Kawamura-UIC, Steve Lazarra-Will County Land Use Dept, Jim LaBelle-Chicago Metropolitan 2020, Dean Mentjes-FHWA, Laurence Rohter-IIT, Norm West-USEPA, Larry Wilson-IDOT, Tom Zapler-UPRR
- Absent:** Joe Alonzo-CDOT, Sandra Deardan-Highroad Consulting, Doug Grane-Central States Trucking, Rob Hoffman-Chicago Workforce Board, Floyd Miras-USDOT-Maritime Admin, Libby Ogard-Prime Focus, Gary Perry-Walgreens
- Staff Present:** Roseann O’Laughlin, Todd Schmidt, Tom Murtha, Don Kopec, Shana Alford, Jacob Hannan
- Others Present:** Elaine Nekritz-State Representative 57th District Illinois, Jack Bauer-Metra, Kristen Bennett-Metro Strategies, Bernardo Bustamante-FHWA, Chris DiPalma-FHWA, Jim Ford-CTCO-BRC, Colleen Gannun-ISTHA, Jim Kvedaras-CN, Jim Messmore-Hanson, Mark Rinnan-Jacobs, Earl Wacker-URS, Audrey Wennick-Cambridge Systematics

1.0 Call to Order and Introductions

Co-chair Tom Zapler called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. Other committee members introduced themselves.

2.0 Agenda Changes and Announcements

There were no agenda changes.

3.0 Approval of Minutes – Nov 6, 2008

A motion to approve the minutes of the November 6, 2008 meeting, as presented, was made by George Billows and seconded by Lee Hutchins. All in favor, the motion carried.

4.0 New Committee Member: ISTHA

Gregory Dreyer, Illinois State Toll Highway Authority was invited to join the committee and introduced himself.

5.0 Presentation: Elaine Nekritz, State Representative 57th District-Illinois

Representative Elaine Nekritz introduced herself and gave a presentation on current issues to the committee. Rep. Nekritz currently heads the "Rail Industry Committee," often misnamed the "Rail Safety Committee." She is involved in passenger and freight rail projects and understands the significance of both. She believes that rail activity is a good source of economic activity for the region but rail does bring community issues, as experienced with the EJ&E acquisition. She stated that her committee would like to heighten the importance of these issues and that the General Assembly has a growing interest in rail.

Rep. Nekritz addressed Illinois capital bill concern. She stated that recent changes in Illinois should open the door for new opportunities. CREATE is a priority but level is uncertain. Rep. Nekritz asked the committee and audience to create a list of priorities for a possible capital budget.

Rep. Nekritz stated that an increase in the gas tax could help support transportation projects but she is unsure of the position of her colleagues on the idea and potential impacts of a federal fuel tax increase.

Rep. Nekritz also addressed the upcoming economic stimulus package. She stated that the General Assembly will help Governor Quinn create the package but she would like more input on the best opportunities for federal dollars and how to obtain these funds. Rep. Nekritz welcomed suggestions for stimulus package projects.

Larry Wilson stated that IDOT has a rail freight program that works to preserve sector jobs. Tom Zapler added that the Illinois Railroad Association has a program which offers grants to shortline railroads.

Reggie Greenwood stated the CN railroad has an underutilized intermodal site in Harvey and his organization is looking enhance this site but access is a major concern.

Roseann O'Laughlin stated that ITS and infrastructure are key areas for funding and investment. Laurence Rohter and George Billows added that advance notification systems

can help trucks avoid congestion. Steve Lazarra explained that if trucks are encouraged to leave the expressway to avoid congestion, local roads may not be able to handle the load. Investment in secondary infrastructure should be included in the lists. Kazuya Kawamura also explained that we should invest in asset management to best maintain and improve current infrastructure.

Jim LaBelle explained that we, as a region, are not best organized to make this sort of list. An authority should be established to package private and public monies. Norm West added that our programs should be flexible.

Rep. Nekritz concluded by calling on the committee to draft an agenda of priority projects.

6.0 Presentation: CMAP Traffic Data

Todd Schmidt, CMAP staff, presented the recently posted congestion scan data. Mr. Schmidt explained that ISTHA and IDOT collect traffic volumes via pavement detectors. ISTHA is able to designate vehicle type – passenger or commercial vehicle but IDOT does not do this. This data can be organized by time of day, type of vehicle or location and will inform the CMAP planning and programming process. Further analysis includes travel time index, planning time index and number of congested hours.

Chris DiPalma explained that this type of real data allows CMAP and others to put a price on action or no-action. Tom Murtha added that this data will be included in the CMAP Indicators project.

Mr. Schmidt's presentation is available at:
<http://www.cmap.illinois.gov/intermodal/minutes.aspx>

7.0 Freight Committee Goals for 2009

The committee and audience discussed possible 2009 goals. Highlights include:

1. Inform capital bill project selection
2. Identify small-scale regional projects (e.g. turning lane improvements, low clearances, Intermodal facility access)
3. Identify specific issues and opportunities to become engaged in (e.g. Intermodal facility development in Will County)
4. Identify a different project for discussion at each meeting
5. Identify short and long-term projects and prioritize and evaluate how they fit into current processes
6. Review *GO TO 2040 Plan* on a continuous basis

Information flow to the transportation committee is important in the process. Also, project priorities are outlined in the freight section of the Regional Transportation Plan.

This plan will be superseded by the *GO TO 2040 PLAN* and the committee and projects in the current plan will be considered for the upcoming plan.

8.0 Other agenda items were deferred to next meeting.

9.0 Public Comment

Steve Lazarra stated that Will County is seeking input to determine if they should pursue becoming an inland port. Please contact Mr. Lazarra if you would like to contribute.

10.0 Meeting Schedule – Next meeting, *February 25*. Please note this is a Wednesday meeting. Future meeting dates:

March 25

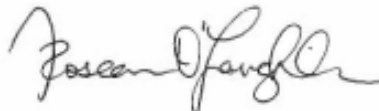
April 29

June 3

11.0 Adjournment

At 12:15 p.m., a motion to adjourn made by Tom Zapler was seconded by Jim LaBelle. All in favor, the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Roseann O'Laughlin
Staff Liaison

02-5-09