



Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

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DRAFT **Freight Committee Meeting Minutes** April 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

Committee Members: Joe Alonzo-CDOT, David Chandler-CNT, Gregory Dreyer-ISTHA, Reggie Greenwood-SSMMA, Reggie Greenwood-SSMMA, David Grewe-CTCO, Rob Hoffman, Dr. J. Lee Hutchins-AECOM, Dean Mentjies-FHWA, Libby Ogard-Prime Focus, Laurence Rohter-IIT, Larry Wilson-IDOT, Tom Zapler-UPRR

Absent: George Billows-Illinois Trucking Association, Doug Grane-Central States Trucking, Kazuya Kawamura-UIC, Jim LaBelle-Chicago Metropolis 2020, Steve Lazarra-Will County Land Use Dept, Floyd Miras-USDOT-Maritime Admin, Gary Perry-Walgreens, Norm West-USEPA

Staff Present: Roseann O’Laughlin, Todd Schmidt, Tom Murtha, Jacob Hannan, Joy Shaad

Others Present: Kristen Anderson-Metra, Paul Belella-Delcan, Kristen Bennett-Metro Strategies, Bernardo Bustamante-FHWA, Len Cannata-WCMC, Chris DiPalma-FHWA, Colleen Gannun-ISTHA, Jim Giblin-Transystems, Jim Messmore-Hanson, Richard Mudge-Delcan, Gerald Rawling, Earl Wacker-URS, Audrey Wennick-Cambridge Systematics

1.0 Call to Order and Introductions

Co-chair Tom Zapler called the meeting to order at 10:08a.m. Other committee members introduced themselves.

2.0 Agenda Changes and Announcements

Bob Dean will not be speaking about the *GO TO 2040 Plan* at this meeting. It has been postponed until June.

3.0 Approval of Minutes – February 25, 2009

A motion to approve the minutes of the February 25th meeting, as presented, was made by Greg Dreyer and seconded by Joe Alonzo. All in favor, the motion carried.

4.0 Presentation: South Suburban Airport Rail Access

Reggie Greenwood, SSMMA described efforts to bring high rail access to the proposed South Suburban Airport. He explained that the southern suburbs would like a connection at the airport. This would require a different alignment or trackage agreement for the St. Louis corridor than is currently proposed.

Mr. Zapler suggested that any groups or individuals interested in suggesting changes to the high speed rail corridor should contact representatives as soon as possible.

CMAP supports the high speed rail initiative but has not taken a position on the best routing opportunity.

5.0 Discussion: GO TO 2040 Project Evaluation Criteria

CMAP staff Ross Patronsky provided details about evaluation criteria. This process is required as part of the transportation capital for federal dollars. There are fiscal constraints and air quality measurements. These measures are also connected to the Indicators and will evaluate major transportation projects (STARLINE, CREATE, Prairie Parkway, etc) against the preferred Scenario, to be determined at a later date.

More information and the current list of evaluation criteria are available at:

<http://www.goto2040.org/ideazone/default.aspx?id=15130> .

6.0 Presentation: Volpe Center report on MPO Freight Best Practices

CMAP staff Roseann O’Laughlin gave a brief presentation on the findings of a study completed by the Volpe Center regarding MPO best practices and freight. Volpe suggested that MPOs serve as a mediator, data provider, leader in financing and guide in land use decisions. Also, it is important to engage freight stakeholders through various processes including committees such as this freight committee. Finally, MPOs should evaluate impacts of each of these actions.

The report is posted at:

<http://www.cmap.illinois.gov/intermodal/default.aspx> (in sidebar content).

7.0 Discussion: RFP 31: Regional Freight System Planning Recommendations

CMAP staff Tom Murtha briefed the group on RFP 031 for freight analysis and policy/strategy recommendations. The RFP was issued to work toward integrating information for final recommendations in the 2040 Comprehensive Plan. He stated that proposals have been submitted but a consultant has not been selected yet. CMAP and the consultant intend to make regular updates on the progress of this work to the committee in coming months. The work should be completed by January 2010.

8.0 Update: *Freight Snapshot*

Ms. O’Laughlin gave an overview of progress on the Freight Snapshot Report. CMAP is still waiting for STB Waybill Sample data to be delivered to IDOT. Per an agreement, IDOT will forward the information to CMAP who will forward the information to Global Insight, the consultant responsible for analyzing the data. This data will greatly enhance data collection that will be presented in the Snapshot Report.

9.0 Project and Issue Updates

CREATE – Larry Wilson, IDOT provided the group with an update on the CREATE project. He announced that CREATE has cleared 2 more projects for environmental review. Final design is the next step for these projects. They are the WA-2 – CSX signal upgrade and the WA-4 linking of two BNSF lines with additional track.

Mr. Wilson added that funding efforts are focused on two pots of funds in the stimulus money in addition to the state capital bill and the transportation authorization bill. By fall, the original CREATE earmark will be obligated and CREATE will request \$500 million in capital bill.

Other – Tom Zapler inquired about CMAP – Comprehensive Planning Funds. This fund is in jeopardy of being completely removed from the state budget. CMAP is working hard to get this funding, which supports all of the state’s MPOs, restored in the state budget.

10.0 Public Comment

Transport Chicago will be held June 5 at the American Dental Association Building. For more information, visit:

www.transportchicago.org

Gerald Rawling announced that he is working on an intermodal activity project. Any data, questions or information regarding this effort should be directed to Mr. Rawling. If you need his contact information, please email Ms. O’Laughlin.

Paul Belella from Delcan announced that the FHWA has been working on a freight movement pilot project in Kansas City. The project involves 4 railroads, MPOs, the DOTs and 5 trucking companies and will employ GPS and other efforts to track times, routes, volumes and more. The goal is pull together information for cross-town freight movements and establish strategies to reduce unneeded moves and reduced congestion. The FHWA hopes bring this project to Chicago.

11.0 Meeting Schedule – Next meeting, *June 3*.

Future meeting dates:

June 3, 2009 (Wed)

July 16, 2009 (Thurs)

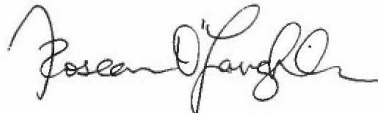
September 2, 2009 (Wed)

October 14, 2009 (Wed)

12.0 Adjournment

At 11:45 a.m., a motion to adjourn was seconded by Rob Hoffman. All in favor, the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Roseann O'Laughlin
Staff Liaison