



# Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

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## **Citizens' Advisory Committee DRAFT Meeting Notes – October 13, 2009**

The meeting was held at the CMAP offices, Cook County Conference Room, 233 South Wacker Drive, Suite 800, Chicago, Illinois. Those present were:

### **Citizens' Advisory Committee Members**

Alba Alexander  
Bill Baltutis  
Geno Bilotto  
Jim Giblin  
Kurt Kojzarek  
Veronica Kyle  
Angela Larsen  
Phyllis Logan  
Allan Mellis  
Sherry Meyer  
Juan Moreno  
Robert Munson  
Andrea Powell  
Christine Sobek  
Harry Solomon

### **CMAP Staff**

Gordon Smith  
Erin Aleman  
John Allen  
Patricia Berry  
Janet Bright  
Bob Dean  
Bola Delano  
Tom Garritano  
Holly Ostdick  
Diana Torres  
Ylda Capriccioso

### **Others**

None

## MEETING SUMMARY

### I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:06 a.m. by Chairman Andrea Powell.

### II. Minutes

Minutes from the July 6, 2009 meeting were approved on a motion by Mr. Mellis and second by Mr. Moreno. Mr. Kojzarek abstained. Minutes from the September 8, 2009 meeting were approved on a motion by Mr. Mellis and second by Mr. Bilotto. Mr. Kojzarek and Mr. Munson abstained.

### III. Executive Director's Report

Mr. Blankenhorn was unable to attend, so his report was combined with Mr. Smith's Director's Report.

Mr. Smith began by announcing External Relations Division staff changes. Mr. Hubert Morgan has left CMAP, but Mr. Smith said he would like him to return to be recognized by the CAC. Ms. Aleman has joined the staff and will head up outreach activities for the Regional Comprehensive Plan. Ms. Torres will become more active in CAC activities.

Mr. Smith said the federal transportation bill, SAFETEA-LU, has expired and agencies are operating on a continuing resolution that substantially reduces transportation funding. Illinois' State Transportation Program has absorbed a \$26 million loss and the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ) has lost \$80 million. He said CMAP is still hopeful Congress will address transportation funding in a [transportation reauthorization bill](#) by the end of their session.

Last, Mr. Smith noted that the Illinois General Assembly's veto session begins October 14 and CMAP hopes to continue the discussion on funding the Regional Planning Fund. He said the legislature and governor's office are in agreement that the fund is a good idea, so we're hopeful funds can be found

Mr. Mellis said the Chicago Transit Authority has proposed a fare increase, adding that fare increases don't promote use of public transit. Mr. Smith agreed, saying the CMAP Board will probably discuss the proposal at its October 14 meeting; and that the Regional Comprehensive Plan promotes transit use. He added that lack of capital is the real issue and that metropolitan regions across the country are facing the same problem.

Mr. Mellis said Crain's Chicago Business had an [article](#) predicting a water shortage in our region by 2015, and asking if that would be discussed during the Water Supply Plan update later in the meeting. Mr. Smith said it would.

Ms. Alexander said 13 comments had been submitted regarding the proposed [2010-11 CMAQ Program](#), but the CAC had not been briefed on them. She added that the

comment period for the [Regional Transportation Plan](#) update had also come and gone with no CAC briefing.

Mr. Smith said Ms. Ostlick presented an update on the CMAQ program at the September meeting, but that CMAP would try to do a better job of keeping members informed in the future. He added that no comments were received on the RTP update and comments on CMAQ are posted on the [website](#).

#### **IV. Regional Comprehensive Plan Update**

Ms. Capriccioso said the final report on the results of the summer “Invent the Future” outreach phase of the *GOTO2040* Regional Comprehensive Plan is in the editing stage and will be ready for the next CAC meeting. She said staff could answer at least one question from the last meeting: more than 600 e-mail addresses had been obtained from the 57 workshops and more than 900 from the 15 fairs and festivals. All will receive updates on the progress of the plan and when the preferred scenarios are determined.

Mr. Giblin asked for details on the number of fairs and festivals CMAP attended and the number of postcards received. Mr. Smith said that information will be included in the final outreach report.

Mr. Baltutis asked how the results from fairs and festivals compare with results from local government planning processes. Ms. Capriccioso said those results will be compared in the final plan.

Mr. Munson said CMAP had conducted an outstanding outreach campaign, and asked when the final report would be completed. Ms. Capriccioso said the report is being edited this week and will be sent to members before the next CAC meeting. She then thanked CAC members for all the work they did to enhance the outreach program.

Mr. Dean gave a presentation (attached) on the development of the Regional Scenario, saying a draft document will be ready for the next CAC meeting. He said that report will explain the preferred scenario within the process; describe outcomes under the preferred scenario; and describe policy directions for the final plan. It will measure the benefits for the region’s economy, environment, transportation system and social equity.

Policy directions for housing and communities must acknowledge that land use decisions are made locally, said Mr. Dean. This summer, he added, the public told CMAP they prefer compact, mixed-use development in existing communities, so we need to focus on ways to help local leaders address challenges in creating that scenario. We also need to address housing affordability, including the role of public programs.

Mr. Mellis asked what the regional impact of these policies might be. Mr. Dean said CMAP encourages intergovernmental cooperation, and our role is to provide them with the best available information so they can make the best decisions. He said the plan will reflect the realities of governing, adding that local governments will continue to make decisions and we will address that reality.

Mr. Solomon said local decisions are usually fairly rational and that CMAP needs to show local leaders how their decisions affect things regionally.

Ms. Alexander said in other parts of the country states provide financial incentives to encourage specific types of policies, and asked if CMAP or Illinois will do so. Mr. Dean said the use of incentives will be considered in the plan.

Mr. Dean said the region's economy is a top priority of the plan. We need to prioritize infrastructure investments to gain the most economic benefit; to change regulations to promote private infrastructure development; to close gaps between education and workforce systems, and to create an environment that supports business innovation.

Ms. Sobek said the Illinois Board of Higher Education has adopted a [public agenda](#) that addresses the education component, adding that CMAP should reference all the research that supports that agenda.

Mr. Dean said we also need to link tax policies to economic development and to seek equitable distribution of economic growth to reduce crime, hunger and homelessness.

Mr. Giblin asked if CMAP is benchmarking how it compares to other states and regions. Mr. Dean said that aspect is being addressed in the Indicators section of the plan.

Mr. Mellis asked if CMAP has looked at Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Districts. Mr. Dean said yes, but there is not much available data.

Mr. Solomon asked if CMAP has looked at developer impact fees. Mr. Dean said yes, but we're not sure where they would fit in the plan.

Mr. Mellis said impact fees can be beneficial. Mr. Dean said they can also have negative impacts on housing affordability. Mr. Kojzarek said there have been lawsuits filed in McHenry County regarding the fees, and that municipalities have a tendency to impose too many.

Mr. Munson said the CMAP Land Use Committee thinks the impact fees issue needs to be dealt with before school siting issues can be resolved. He added that the fees are bad for builders and have become a primary method for dealing with infrastructure issues that should be handled under more traditional tax policies.

Mr. Kojzarek said impact fees add to the cost of housing and because they're so controversial CMAP might not want to address them in the plan. Mr. Dean agreed the issue is volatile, adding that CMAP might not take a position, but will address the pros and cons.

Ms. Logan asked how abandoned industrial properties and brownfields will be addressed in the plan. Mr. Dean cited CMAP [research](#) on the issue that shows cleaning up brownfields and abandoned industrial sites has a positive impact on surrounding property values.

Mr. Dean said the preferred scenario will also address such environmental issues as open space, waterways and water quality, local food production, climate change, resource conservation and “green” buildings.

Mr. Kojzarek asked what the standards will be for “green” buildings. Mr. Dean said CMAP hasn’t addressed that as yet. Mr. Moreno said best practices for “green” buildings means they improve the quality of life, adding that the plan should reflect that.

Mr. Giblin said there doesn’t seem to be a big push for more open space in DuPage County. Mr. Dean agreed, saying there’s more interest in other counties, such as Lake.

Mr. Munson said the 2040 plan should be able to help counties set aside land for open space. Mr. Mellis said the Cook County Forest Preserve District owns 11 percent of the land in the county. He said preserving land has to be an element in the overall plan, but the plan must also show how such preservation increases surrounding land values.

Mr. Giblin said there must be a public consensus on what people want and what they’re willing to pay for.

Ms. Larsen asked if the plan will link ecosystem preservation and energy conservation. Mr. Dean said yes.

Ms. Sobek said there are other tools, such as conservation easements, that should also be referenced in the plan.

Continuing his presentation, Mr. Dean said transportation will be a major component of the plan. He said we need to maximize existing infrastructure, improve transit, use congestion pricing to help fund road and transit improvements, invest in freight infrastructure and explore more fuel efficient vehicles.

Mr. Mellis asked if the plan will favor new roads. Mr. Dean said some will be needed, as well as roadway expansions, but they will need to be in places where they provide the biggest economic and environmental benefits.

Mr. Baltutis asked if we can retrofit existing high-use corridors to make the system work better. Mr. Dean said that’s part of maximizing existing infrastructure.

Ms. Logan said she didn’t think the system can be improved without adding new infrastructure. She said if public transit cannot be enhanced, new roads will be needed because the expected increase in population will force us to improve transportation.

Mr. Mellis asked if the plan will recommend shifting gasoline tax funds from road to transit projects. Mr. Dean said the plan doesn’t go that far, but it will recommend breaking down funding “silos” to allow more flexibility in solving problems.

Mr. Kojzarek said it sounds like the plan will penalize those who drive. Mr. Dean said most state and federal monies must be spent in specific ways, but the plan will call for “unsiloing” these to allow more flexibility in planning.

Mr. Dean said CMAP is about two-thirds of the way through the *GOTO2040* planning process. He said the draft Preferred Scenario will be ready prior to the CAC’s November meeting, and that it must be approved by the CMAP Board at its January meeting.

Mr. Solomon asked if the list of proposed capital projects is available. Mr. Dean said the [list](#), which contains only about 60 projects, is posted on the CMAP website.

Mr. Mellis asked what the process will be to obtain public buy-in to the final plan. Mr. Dean said staff is working on that now, but it must happen before the plan is complete.

Mr. Munson said CMAP must speak to two distinct audiences: local officials, because the plan must make sense to them today; and those who dream of a better tomorrow.

## **V. CAC Blog**

Mr. Garritano said CMAP is prepared to offer a guest blog post to CAC members on the *GOTO2040* website. He said the site has a built-in audience, is a stable environment and allows for public comment.

He said CMAP doesn’t want to censor members’ comments, but brevity is important. Longer discussions could be linked off the blog site, he added. One caveat about the blog is that people might think an individual blogger is speaking for the whole committee, especially if there were to be a stand-alone CAC blog.

Ms. Alexander asked how much effort would be involved in creating a separate CAC blog. Mr. Garritano said CMAP has the software to do it, with upkeep being the biggest issue. He added that a separate blog would involve staff overhead in the form of time.

Ms. Powell asked why the blog would be on the *GOTO2040* site and not the CMAP site. Mr. Garritano said CMAP currently expends more energy on the 2040 site, so it makes more sense there.

Ms. Powell said people on *GOTO2040* would be blogging about the plan, not other topics, and a blog on the CMAP site would allow wider-ranging discussion. Mr. Garritano said the CMAP site is more about the day-to-day processes of the agency, but isn’t as issue-oriented or interactive as *GOTO2040*. He said most blog discussions on the site aren’t specifically about the plan.

Ms. Powell asked if there is somewhere on the CMAP site to promote the blog on the other site. Mr. Munson asked how CMAP could solicit comments from non-CAC members. Mr. Garritano said members should tell their friends about the blog, and use new media such as Twitter and other blogs to promote it.

Mr. Mellis said he would like an overview and explanation of both websites at a future CAC meeting.

## **VI. Community Assistance Program Update**

Ms. Delano gave a presentation (attached) on CMAP's Community and Technical Assistance Program. She said the program brings CMAP's work to the local level, using tools such as Full Circle, the Centers Toolkit, Impact Analysis and Return on Investment and assistance projects such as Industry Clusters, the Regional Brownfield Initiative, summits and roundtables and green initiatives.

After describing the tools and projects, she said many municipalities have lost their planners and/or economic development directors due to the economy. She added that only 98 of the 284 municipalities in the region have long-range plans, and many of those don't focus on economic development. To help rectify the situation and build regional capacity, CMAP offers a technical assistance [providers directory](#) to help communities.

An example of the technical assistance provided by CMAP is the Regional Brownfield Initiative. Ms. Delano said our region lags surrounding areas in the number of applications submitted to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for funds to remediate brownfields. CMAP is working with both state and federal EPAs to help communities navigate the funding channels, and plans three webinars this fall to offer technical assistance in brownfield grant writing.

Ms. Delano said more summits and roundtables on a variety of topics are planned for the near future, and urged members to have their local communities take part whenever possible.

Ms. Kyle said she had attended several workshops and roundtable presentations and found them to be very informative. Ms. Powell agreed.

## **VII. Regional Water Supply Plan Update**

Ms. Talbot gave an overview (attached) of the northeast Illinois Regional Water Supply Plan. She said the governor issued an executive order in 2006 calling for the Department of Natural Resources and local agencies to conduct a three-year study of the state's water needs and develop plans to prevent shortages in the future.

The Regional Water Supply Planning Group (RWSPG), based at CMAP, consists of 35 member agencies that are looking at three main water supplies for 11 counties in northeast Illinois: Lake Michigan, underground aquifers and surface waters such as rivers and streams. Seventy-seven percent of the region's people currently receive their water from the lake, 19 percent from aquifers and four percent from rivers and streams, she said.

The RWSPG has five goals: ensure the availability of water to all; protect the quality of the water; provide sufficient water to sustain aquatic ecosystems and economic

development; educate the public about the importance of water conservation; and manage withdrawals of water to protect long-term productivity. She said failure to achieve these goals means regional growth will stagnate and the quality of life will suffer.

Mr. Mellis said CMAP's assumptions about the future are all based on population growth, but that can't happen if there's no water. Ms. Talbot said the Water Supply Plan will recommend strategies to deal with population growth, adding that future growth was the main reason for starting the plan.

Mr. Mellis, noting that there are hundreds of water providers in the region, asked if they were all involved and if federal programs such as the [Great Lakes Initiative](#) were considered. Ms. Talbot replied affirmatively.

Mr. Munson said DuPage County would not have grown without the availability of Lake Michigan water, adding that other counties are now at a disadvantage because they can't draw from the lake. Ms. Talbot said Illinois is not using its full allotment of lake water, and that some communities might be able to do so in the future if current users practice better conservation.

She said the RWSPG modeled water demand using current trends as well as scenarios using less water and more water. The models demonstrated that the aquifers will not be able to meet demands for more water. She said planners cannot tell local municipalities what to do to ensure adequate water for future residents, but we can tell them they might run out of water and need to consider other options.

The RWSPG has two more meetings scheduled prior to the plan's scheduled approval by the CMAP Board in January. The plan will be published and distributed in February, followed by implementation of its recommendations.

Mr. Mellis asked if the plan will get people to pay attention now so we can avoid future problems. Ms. Talbot said yes, adding that a major publicity campaign to make people aware of the problems and possible solutions will begin after publication of the plan.

Ms. Meyer asked if CMAP will coordinate that campaign with the region's museums. Ms. Capriccioso said campaign development is already underway and CMAP met with officials of the Shedd Aquarium about it last week.

Ms. Kyle asked if CMAP will coordinate with the school system to educate future generations. Ms. Talbot said that will probably be included in the plan implementation phase.

Ms. Capriccioso said the RWSPG [newsletter](#) contains a short summary of the plan, as well as a link to the education component.

Ms. Powell asked if the plan will help municipalities with water planning. Ms. Talbot said that will be part of the implementation segment and offered through CMAP's Community and Technical Assistance Program.

## **VIII. CMAP Committee Reports**

There were no committee reports.

## **IX. Other Business**

Mr. Mellis asked if CMAP partner agencies can present information at CAC meetings. Mr. Smith said partners can be invited to make presentations on selective issues. Ms. Powell said members are free to suggest issues they would like to discuss.

## **X. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

## **XI. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m. The next meeting will be held at 9 a.m. on Monday, November 9, 2009, at the CMAP offices.