DUPAGE MAYORS AND MANAGERS CONFERENCE
an association of municipalities representing 1,000,000 people

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Founded June 19, 1962

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Ross Patronsky, Chairman, CMAQ Project Selection Committee
Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
233 South Wacker Drive, Suite 800
Chicago, IL 60606

Dear Mr. Patronsky: September 3, 2011

The DuPage Mayors and Managers Conference (DMMC) appreciates the opportunity to comment on CMAP's proposed FY 2012-2016 Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) program. Upon reviewing the selection process and recommended program, DMMC would like to offer three comments about the program.

First, DMMC acknowledges CMAP's laudable goal to align the CMAQ program with the goals of the *Go To 2040* regional comprehensive plan. The plan offers a consensus-based vision for a good walking and bicycling environment which improves transit access, makes systematic improvements, and establishes connections between forest preserves and parks. The CMAQ program provides an excellent opportunity to realize these goals, by funding projects that local sponsors across the region can advance.

Second, DMMC appreciates that several DuPage and DMMC member projects are included in the recommended program, and we support the recommendation to fund them. In addition to promoting local aspirations and supporting *Go To 2040's* goals, these projects also advance the goals the *DuPage Area Transit Plan* to improve mobility and reduce congestion. These projects include:

- City of Elmhurst: Intersection Improvements along Butterfield Road at York Street and Commonwealth Lane,
- City of St. Charles: Red Gate Bicycle/Pedestrian Road Bridge,
- City of Wheaton: Bikeway Signage, Bike Map, and Bicycle Racks,
- DuPage County Department of Transportation: Intersection Improvements at 75th Street, 55th Street, and Fabyan Parkway/Washington Street, and
- DuPage County Department of Transportation: Central Signal System Phase I and II, and Signal Interconnects at 55th Street and Schmale Road.

Third, DMMC seeks additional information about five projects that appeared in the Proposed Primary Package of Pedestrian Improvements issued by the CMAP Bicycle and Pedestrian Task Force in its memo dated June 30, 2011, but were later placed on CMAP's Multi-Year B List. These projects include:

- DuPage Forest Preserve District: Winfield Mounds Segment/West Branch Regional Trail and Mallard Lake Segment/North Central DuPage Regional Trail,
- Naperville: N Aurora Road Multi-use Path,
- Woodridge: Illinois Route 53 Pedestrian Bridge at Prentiss Creek, and
- Itasca: Downtown Area Pedestrian Improvements

Based on our review of the Task Force materials, each project met at least two of the Task Force's key qualities for projects which showed the greatest potential to achieve a mode shift (i.e. access to transit, innovation, addressing an arterial barrier, and inclusion in a greenway/trails plan). Additionally, each project was supported by the community and showed an ability to help advance the goals of *Go To 2040*.

We understand that projects move through three levels of evaluation prior to going out for public comment, and that level plays an important part in the process:

- Staff review and project ranking,
- Program Focus Group Review and prioritization of projects, and
- CMAQ Project Selection Committee review and approval

We seek to better understand how these five projects moved through the steps in the evaluation process – including what factors about each project were instrumental in the decision to place them on the MYB List. We also seek to better understand what it means to be on the MYB List – including what opportunities are conferred or next steps made possible by this placement. Toward this end, DMMC would like to meet with you to review these questions at a time at your earliest convenience. DMMC also requests that CMAP staff be available at our September 27, 2 pm Transportation Policy Committee (at the DMMC office) to present an overview of this year's evaluation process and participate in a brief Q&A.

We appreciate that CMAP has limited funding to award and that not all projects can be funded. It is all the more important, we believe, to understand and communicate the process to our members in this and future funding cycles.

We look forward to working with CMAP and our local sponsors to see each project that is ultimately funded reach a successful letting and to continue to help engage municipalities in the CMAQ Program. If you have any questions, please contact me or Tam Kutzmark, Transportation and Planning Director.

Best Regards,

Mark Baloga
Executive Director, DuPage Mayors and Managers Conference

Cc: Gary Grasso, DMMC President; Mayor, Village of Burr Ridge
Curt Barrett, Director, Transportation Policy Committee; Manager, Village of Winfield
Jeff Mermuys, Deputy Director, Transportation Policy Committee; Manager, City of Wood Dale