



Final Minutes

CMAQ Project Selection Committee Meeting

Thursday, September 15, 2011

CMAP Offices

Members Present: Chairman Ross Patronsky – CMAP, Marty Buehler – Counties, Jeffery Schielke – Council of Mayors, Mark Pitstick - RTA, Luann Hamilton - City of Chicago, Mike Rogers – IEPA (via phone) Susan Stitt - IDOT

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Curt Barrett, Bruce Carmitchel, Bruce Christensen, Brian Carlson, Barb Cornew, John Donovan, Jonathon Doshier, Melody Geraci, Mike Hankey, Andrea Hoyt, James Huges, Tam Kutzmark, Ruth Myers, Bill Lenski, Keith Privett, Kristian Skogsbakken, Chris Snyder, Eric Spande, Chris Staron, David Tomzik, Jan Ward (via phone), Thomas Weaver, David Werner

Staff Present: Patricia Berry, Doug Ferguson, Don Kopec, Tom Murtha, Holly Ostidick, Russell Pietrowiak, Joy Schaad

1.0 Call to Order and Introductions

Committee Chair Ross Patronsky called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. Members and attendees introduced themselves.

2.0 Agenda Changes and Announcements

Mr. Patronsky stated the four or five parties had expressed interest in speaking about the proposed program and suggested that those comments be taken under item 4.2 with the discussion of the public comments already received. The committee agreed.

3.0 Approval of July 21, 2011 Minutes

Mr. Pitstick pointed out that CDOT was mistakenly referred to as CTA on page five and suggested some changes to clarify that Ms. Hamilton had said that the RTA's Chicagoland Commute Options project should also be included in the proposed program. On a motion by Mayor Schielke and a second by Mr. Pitstick, the draft minutes for the July 7, 2011 meeting were approved with the revisions.

4.0 FY 2012-2016 CMAQ Program

4.1 Missing Proposal Applications

It came to the attention of staff that two project applications were missing from the projects evaluated and considered for funding. The two, sidewalk projects in Hillside and Northlake, had been submitted on time. Staff analyzed both projects for air quality benefits and presented the results to the Committee. While the Bicycle and Pedestrian Task Force did not review the two projects, they did review 40 other pedestrian proposals; their recommendation to the Committee did not include any sidewalk proposals noting that sidewalk projects are, for the most part, local projects and lack regional benefits. On this basis staff did not recommend the inclusion of these proposals in the proposed program.

4.2 Public Comments on Proposed CMAQ FY 2012-2016 Program

The public comment period for the proposed FFY12-16 CMAQ program ended on September 3, 2011. A summary of the comments received and proposed responses to those comments were made available in the agenda packet. Mr. Ferguson reported that 19 comments were received and staff has recommended that the Project Selection Committee make two revisions to the Multi-Year B list: Revise Pace's I-90 Corridor proposal in the Multi-Year B list to 100 percent funding to match the funding percentage in the Proposed Program for the proposal, and include Aurora's intersection improvement proposal on Eola Rd from 83rd St/Montgomery Rd to 87th St in the Multi-Year B-list as a corridor-level proposal to complement the Eola Rd signal interconnect proposal that is included in the proposed program. Mr. Ferguson also reported that the programming marks have been adjusted to reflect the removal of the 3 CDOT projects (01-97-0085 – Streeterville Signal Interconnect; 01-02-0032 – Central Av Signal Interconnect from I-55 to 55th St; 01-03-0004 – Roosevelt Rd Signal Interconnect from Western Ave to Lake Shore Dr) which were agreed to in order to keep the program within the mark. The Committee took additional comments from the audience.

Chris Staron of the Northwest Municipal Conference voiced concerns about the program development process. He stated that the interplay or weighting of the program focus groups' recommendations and the weight of each project's air quality analysis was unclear; he characterized this as a lack of transparency and predictability.

Mike Hankey of Hoffman Estates acknowledged the staff and committee for all the efforts put into program development and asked about the possibility of moving their Shoe Factory/I-90 bicycle project at the UP railroad into the funded program from the B list recommendations. Chairman Patronsky explained the necessity of a cutoff between projects that are recommended for the funded program and those for the B list, and since this is on the recommended B list, he encouraged the Village to move forward with their efforts and petition the Committee to bring it into the funded program at the appropriate time.

Curt Barrett of Winfield provided the status of the Winfield Mounds DuPage Regional Trail project sponsored by the DuPage Forest Preserve District and pointed out additional merits of the project. He asked questions about how it was chosen for B list status. He also commented that he felt that the dollars programmed for bike projects in Chicago and Cook County were out of balance compared to funds programmed in the collar counties. Mr.

Pitstick pointed out that a larger than normal percentage of CMAQ funding programmed in Chicago is going to bicycle and pedestrian projects this round. Later it was pointed out that regionally, 31% of the funds in this round are going to bicycle and pedestrian projects, whereas the amount has ranged from 21-26% in the last 5 years.

Andrea Hoyt of the DuPage Forest Preserve District provided information on status and local commitment to the project and to connecting trails. She expressed concern for the lack of clarity on how much progress is needed to move projects from the B list into the funded program. Chairman Patronsky commented that sponsors with projects on both the A and B lists will be expected to advance their A list projects before requesting that any B list projects be moved up.

In response to one of her questions, Mr. Pitstick suggested that once the October status reports are received and any delinquent 2011 projects addressed by the Committee, there might be room in the program to move some projects in. Mr. Buehler expressed his observation that many sponsors misunderstood the role of the Program Focus Group's recommendations as assuring the recommended projects' funding, when in fact, those were just one factor in the Selection Committee's decision.

Ms. Stitt observed that there is a common theme in the comments of, "help us understand the process better". She said she knew staff was planning on reviewing the GO TO 2040 focused programming approach for lessons learned and ways to improve the process. She suggested staff aim for completion of this exercise in January.

On a motion by Ms. Stitt and a second by Ms. Hamilton, the proposed FY 2012-2016 CMAQ program, multi-year B list, and programming marks were recommended to the CMAP Transportation Committee and Regional Coordinating Committee for their recommendation to the MPO Policy Committee and CMAP Board.

5.0 Project Changes

5.1 IDOT - IL 64 from Tyler Rd to 7th Ave (TIP ID 09-00-0012)

IDOT requested a cost increase of \$185,000 total (\$148,000 CMAQ federal) and a scope change. On a motion by Mr. Buehler and a second by Ms. Hamilton, the request was approved.

5.2 DuPage County DOT – Thorndale Ave from I-290 Entrance Ramp to Park Blvd (TIP ID 08-07-0003)

DuPage County requested a cost increase of \$4,560,000 total (\$3,648,000 federal). The request was tabled at the July 21, 2011 meeting. After discussion of potential impacts on the current program and the unobligated balance, Mr. Buehler made a motion to approve the request. Mayor Schielke seconded it and the motion was approved by the Committee.

5.3 Homewood - Village of Homewood Bicycle Network - Near and Mid-Term Priorities (TIP ID 07-08-0009)

Homewood requested to move all funding into Construction. Staff undertook this as an administrative modification. There were no questions or comments.

5.4 Buffalo Grove – Dundee Rd Sidewalk (TIP ID 03-09-0012)

Buffalo Grove requested a scope change to increase the width of the sidewalk from 5 feet to 8 feet. Staff undertook this as an administrative modification. There were no questions or comments.

5.5 Cook County Department of Environmental Control – Cook County Fleet Diesel Retrofit (TIP ID 13-09-0001)

The Cook County DOE requested to withdraw \$691,845 total (\$553,476 federal) due to insufficient local match. This action would leave \$663,135 total (\$530,805 federal) in the project. The CDOE will use the remaining funds to retrofit County-owned diesel-powered vehicles with advanced pollution controls, as intended. Staff undertook this action as an administrative change. There were no questions or comments.

6.0 Active Program Management

6.1 May status updates

Ms. Ostidick reported that CMAP staff, the PLs, CDOT and IDOT have followed up on May status updates to see if the projects have in fact been obligated. She said that 47 projects that have had at least one one-time move into 2011 have not obligated as yet. CMAP has received word from IDOT that 16 of those projects have made progress towards obligation, leaving up to 31 projects that may request a schedule move again in October. The October status updates will be discussed at the November Committee meeting.

6.2 Quarter Transit Expenditure Status Update

Ms. Schaad reported that 52 transit projects were reported on this quarter: 13 are complete, 6 of those have been closed out, 38 are considered active and 1 project is considered dropped. For seven of the projects, the outlook/schedule for completion is unclear. Also, sixteen of the 52 projects have had zero dollars expended. She reported that for the projects labeled stalled/unclear, 3 were due to problems with local match (2 CTA and 1 Metra) and 4 are commuter parking projects where the next implementation steps are under the control of the local governments and their intentions are unclear.

Metra now thinks that their GenSet project and the Robbins commuter parking project are progressing. The likelihood of FTA pulling funds from the local commuter station projects that are stalled was discussed. It was decided that Metra should request that the local sponsors provide solid timelines or withdrawal, and that when Metra meets with FTA at their regular quarterly status meeting November 30th, they discuss the continuation or revocation of the grants. Mr. Weaver agreed to report back to the Committee. In response to a question at the meeting, it was later determined that the CMAQ funds tied up in these 7 stalled/unclear projects totals about \$6.8 million. However, if the Robbins Station Parking (\$704,000) and Metra GenSets (\$2,798,000) projects move soon, it would be \$3.3 million.

7.0 Other Business

There was no other business

8.0 Public Comment

Mr. Curt Barrett of Winfield asked if they could expect a written response on their comment letter. Chairman Patronskey suggested that it would be more effective to have a face-to-face meeting to go through the projects and their ranking. Mr. Buehler pointed out that any written response would have to come from the Project Selection Committee. Ms. Hoyt of the DuPage County Forest Preserve District said that she would like to participate in such a meeting, in order to learn what to do to keep the project viable for CMAQ funding and what level of progress is needed for a favorable decision on moving off the B list.

9.0 Next Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for November 3, 2011 at 2:00 p.m. at the CMAP offices.

10.0 Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.