



MINUTES

CMAQ Project Selection Committee

Thursday, May 23, 2013 2:00 p.m.
CMAP Offices

Committee Members Present: Ross Patronsky, Chair (CMAP), Chris Snyder (counties), Bruce Carmitchel (IDOT), Mayor Rodeghier (Council of Mayors), Mark Pitstick (RTA), Luann Hamilton (CDOT), Mike Rogers (IEPA)

Staff Present: Patricia Berry, Kama Dobbs, Jesse Elam, Doug Ferguson, Joy Schaad

Others Present: Lenny Cannata (via phone), John Donovan, Terry Heffron, David Johnson, Tam Kutzmark, Tom Rickert, Mayor Schielke (via phone), Christopher Schmidt, Chris Staron, Brian Stepp, Mike Sullivan, David Tomzik, Tom VanderWoude (via phone), Mike Walczak (via phone), Tammy Wierciak

1.0 Call to Order

Committee Chairman Patronsky called the meeting to order at 2:06 p.m. He introduced Mayor William Rodeghier of Western Springs who will be the alternate to Mayor Schielke representing the Council of Mayors. He noted that Mayor Schielke was attending via phone also.

2.0 Agenda Changes and Announcements

Chairman Patronsky suggested two agenda additions: item 5.6, a project change request from CDOT for Washington/Wabash Elevated Train Station and item 6.2, an update on the meeting held April 17th concerning project readiness for some of the FY 2014-2018 transit applications. The time of the July 11th meeting was changed from 2:00 p.m. to 9:30 a.m.

3.0 Approval of Minutes—April 11, 2013

On a motion by Mr. Carmitchel and a second by Mr. Pitstick, the minutes of the April 11, 2013 meeting were approved as presented.

4.0 Program Monitoring

4.1 Programming Project Status Sheets

Mr. Ferguson provided highlights of the report on status of active projects and the line item changes since the last the Committee meeting. Subtotals were added for each fiscal year as requested.

4.2 Obligation Goal

Mr. Ferguson presented an update on the CMAQ obligations for the current federal fiscal year along with a summary of line item changes resulting from the May status update. The amount currently programmed for FFY 2013 dropped by about \$100 million since the last report, largely due to the results of the May status updates, in which many sponsors indicated that their projects were delayed. In cases where the sponsor's new estimated date of obligation did not cross the project's sunset year, it was moved to the requested fiscal year in the program. The majority of those not moved will be subject to deferral in October.

The outlook for meeting the FFY 2013 obligation goal of \$123 million is looking positive given the results of the May status update. The difference between the obligation goal and the current FFY 2013 obligations of \$96 million is \$27 million. Sponsors are indicating that they think they can obligated \$87 million in additional FFY 2013 funds. Even using the rule of thumb that only half of what is expected to obligate will do so, that is more than the difference.

It was also noted that FHWA issued revised Federal apportionments on April 24, 2013 which caused Illinois' CMAQ funds to decrease by \$220,000, a 0.2% reduction.

Finally, staff reminded the PSC that IDOT has requested information on what will be ready to obligate in FFY2015 in September.

5.0 Project Changes

5.1 IDOT – US 30/Lincoln Hwy at I-55 Ramps (TIP ID 12-12-0006)

IDOT requested a cost increase of \$432,000 (\$346,000 federal) for construction. On a motion by Ms. Hamilton and a second by Mr. Snyder, the request was approved.

5.2 IDOT – US 6/Southwest Hwy at Gougar Rd (TIP ID 12-12-0005)

IDOT requested a cost increase of \$500,000 total (\$400,000 federal) for construction. On a motion by Mr. Snyder and a second by Mr. Rogers, the request was approved.

5.3 IDOT – US 6/Southwest Hwy at Parker Rd (TIP ID 12-12-0010)

IDOT requested a scope change from a roundabout to an intersection design that has traditional traffic signalization and channelization and a cost increase of \$450,000 total (\$432,000 federal) for right of way acquisition and construction. On a motion by Mr. Rogers and a second by Mr. Snyder, the request was approved.

5.4 Kane County DOT – Kane County Bike Rack Program (TIP ID 09-12-0010)

Kane County requested a scope change to include CMAQ eligible agencies within Kendall County (i.e. in the nonattainment area) that are a part of the Kane/Kendall

Council of Mayors. On a motion by Mr. Pitstick and a second by Mr. Carmitchel, the request was approved.

5.5 Palos Heights – Cal Sag Greenway Bike Trail (TIP ID 06-06-0061)

Palos Heights requested that funding for construction be restored from the deferral list in the amount of \$326,000 federal for the Palos Park/Alsip segments of the project from 86th Ave. to Southwest Hwy and Ridgeland Ave to Cicero Ave. The sponsor demonstrated project phase readiness by submitting pre-final plans to IDOT. Staff undertook the restoration of deferred funding as an administrative change.

5.6 CDOT – Washington/Wabash Elevated Train Station (TIP ID 01-12-0008)

The City of Chicago requested to transfer \$3,415,000 CMAQ funds from the Morgan St Station project (TIP ID 01-09-003) and \$40,000,000 from the Clark and Division St. Station project (TIP ID 01-96-0008) to the Washington/Wabash St Station project and to move the construction phase from the “B-list” to FFY 13. On a motion by Mr. Pitstick and a second by Mayor Rodeghier, the request was approved.

6.0 FY 2014-2018 Program Development

6.1 Focus Groups

Mr. Rickert reported that the Bicycle/Pedestrian Task Force has been reviewing CMAQ projects. They have established a working group to review the performance data and circumstances for each project. Performance data include population, employment, transit boardings, *Greenways and Trails Plan* implementation, and safety/attractiveness to potential users. Recommendations to the CMAQ Project Selection Committee are expected to be approved at the next Task Force meeting. Recommended projects will not be specifically ranked. Mr. Pitstick requested that the RTA’s revised project proposal for Regionwide Transit Access Improvements go to the Bicycle/Pedestrian Task Force for review as well as the Transit Focus Group. Staff agreed to Mr. Pitstick’s request.

Chairman Patronsky reported that the Diesel Emissions Reduction (DER) Focus Group met earlier in the day and reviewed eight applications. He pointed out that the Norfolk Southern project has been withdrawn because the Committee approved a project change for the Norfolk Southern at the last meeting. Two applications for municipal fleets were removed as ineligible because CMAQ does not fund general purpose vehicles. The group is using criteria established during the last application cycle: GO TO 2040 implementation, use of advanced technologies and modernizing public fleets. Focus group members will review their application scoring in light of presentations made at the meeting. They will meet within the next two weeks to make recommendations to the Project Selection Committee.

6.2 Project Readiness review meeting

Chairman Patronsky reported that staff met with the sponsors of proposals where the completion of early work phases was in question. With the new information presented, several proposals were understood to meet the readiness criteria. Other proposals were removed from consideration. Mr. Snyder asked staff if revisions to the CMAQ project management policies were in order. Chairman Patronsky responded that staff would look at that issue after this programming cycle is over in

the fall, but sponsors should know that a dialog is always an option. Mr. Pitstick noted that the “check boxes” on the application are most applicable to highway projects and should be reworded for transit accommodation and other non-highway projects in the next programming cycle.

7.0 MAP-21

Buy America provisions continue to impede some of the diesel emissions reduction projects. CMAP has submitted a comment to the docket on a request for waiver by a number of other project sponsors around the country. While no northeastern Illinois projects were in the waiver request, we wanted to emphasize the importance of these projects and the ways in which they differ from conventional FHWA projects.

8.0 Other Business

There were two comments on the May 2013 CMAQ Obligations brochure. Staff clarified that that summary does not include information gleaned from the May status updates. Mr. Pitstick noted that the Obligations by Sponsor group has information on six sponsor groups, but the deferred project line items by sponsor group only has three sponsor groups. It was agreed that in future editions, staff would note that omissions of any group is due to their data equaling zero. On another note, Ms. Berry reported that at the June 13 MPO Policy Committee meeting, staff will brief the committee on program development and monitoring. Given previous discussions on the public/private projects funded under CMAQ, this item will be specifically address during the briefing.

9.0 Public Comment

There was no public comment.

10.0 Next Meeting

The committee’s next meeting is scheduled for June 20, 2013 at 2:00 p.m.

11.0 Adjournment

Chairman Patronsky adjourned the meeting at 2:53 p.m.