



Chicago Metropolitan
Agency for Planning

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MINUTES

CMAQ Project Selection Committee

April 11, 2013 2:00 p.m.

CMAP Offices

Committee Members

Present:

Ross Patronsky, Chair (CMAP), Chris Snyder (counties), Bruce Carmitchel (IDOT), Mayor Keller/Mayor Schielke (via phone) (Council of Mayors), Mark Pitstick (RTA), Keith Privett/Luann Hamilton (CDOT), Mike Rogers (IEPA)

Staff Present:

Alex Beata, Patricia Berry, Kama Dobbs, Jesse Elam, Doug Ferguson, Don Kopec, Tom Murtha, Jose Rodriguez, Joy Schaad

Others Present:

Jennifer Becker, Bruce Christenson, Chalen Daigle (via phone), John Donovan, Laura Fedak, Terry Heffron, David Johnson, Valbona Kokoshi, Aimee Lee, Matt Lehan, Tom Rickert, Christopher Schmidt, Herbert Smith, Lorraine Snorden, Chris Staron, Brian Stepp, Mike Sullivan (via phone), David Tomzik, Brian Urbaszewski, Tom VanderWoude, Mike Walczak

1.0 Call to Order

Committee Chairman Ross Patronsky called the meeting to order at 2:06 p.m.

2.0 Agenda Changes and Announcements

Chairman Patronsky announced that this would be Mayor Keller's last meeting as he did not seek reelection this spring and will no longer serve on the Council of Mayors Executive Committee. The PSC thanked Mayor Keller for his insightful participation over the last several years. Chairman Patronsky noted that Mayor Schielke was participating in much of the meeting by phone and will continue as the Council of Mayors representative. Bruce Carmitchel announced new staff at IDOT and introduced Christopher Schmidt, air quality specialist with the Department. There were no agenda changes.

3.0 Approval of Minutes— February 14, 2013

On a motion by Mr. Carmitchel and a second by Mr. Snyder, the minutes of the February 14, 2013 meeting were approved as presented.

4.0 Program Monitoring

4.1 Programming Project Status Sheets

Mr. Ferguson drew the Committee's attention to two reports that were in the agenda posting: the CMAQ Program Summary 2013-2016 Line Items and the Deferred Projects List. He provided highlights of changes since the last meeting of the Project Selection Committee and fielded questions. The committee requested that grand totals be added to the reports.

4.2 Obligation Report

Mr. Ferguson referred the Committee to a new brochure, the *Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program Obligation Report*. The brochure was developed for the Council of Mayors Executive Committee and illustrates the progress being made in reaching the annual obligation goal. Obligations by sponsor group and by subregional council are presented. Feedback on the brochure is welcome and Doug encouraged members and other participants to contact him.

4.3 Obligation Goal

Mr. Ferguson directed the Committee's attention to the CMAQ Programming Summary and Obligation Goals report. He reported that as of the end of February \$50 million in CMAQ funds have been obligated against the region's goal of \$123 million for FFY 2013. Another \$9 million not represented in the report was obligated in March. Based on current information on project status, staff estimates that another \$58 million will be obligated this federal fiscal year, bringing the region within \$6 million of meeting its goal. The May status updates will be pushed up so the staff can provide the PSC with revised estimates in time for the May meeting.

4.4 Quarterly Transit Expenditure Update

Mr. Ferguson provided highlights regarding the staff analysis of 4th quarter 2012 transit expenditures. The only stalled project listed is the Carroll Avenue Busway. Mr. Privett noted that FTA had recently determined that the City can go ahead with the desired broadening of the study area within the approved grant. The study has been advertised for procurement of professional services.

5.0 Project Changes

5.1 Melrose Park – North Ave Commuter Bicycle Path from Mannheim Rd to Thatcher Ave (TIP ID 04-08-0001)

The sponsor requested a scope change regarding the path's routing for a new west terminus at Armitage Ave and Mannheim Rd. On a motion by Mr. Carmitchel and a second by Mr. Snyder, the request was approved.

5.2 Lake Zurich – US 12/Rand Road at Ela Road (TIP ID 10-02-0007)

The sponsor requested a cost increase in the amount of \$63,750 total (\$51,000 federal) for Phase II engineering. On a motion by Mayor Keller and a second by Mr. Pitstick, the request was approved.

5.3 Sleepy Hollow – Bike Path along Sleepy Hollow Road from Thorobred Lane to Dundee Township Bird Sanctuary Trail Head (TIP ID 09-10-0002)

The sponsor requested that the funding for construction be restored from the deferred projects list in the amount of \$72,000 federal and requested a cost increase in the amount of \$33,600 federal. The sponsor demonstrated project phase readiness by submitting pre-final plans to IDOT. Staff undertook the restoration of deferred funding as an administrative change. On a motion by Mr. Carmitchel and a second by Mayor Keller, the cost increase request was approved.

5.4 IEPA – Norfolk Southern Railway Co Switchyard Diesel Locomotive Retrofit Project (TIP ID 13-10-0005)

The sponsor requested a cost increase in the amount of \$17,260,000 total (\$12,324,000 federal) and scope change to purchase an additional 12 switcher locomotive engines. Mr. Pitstick offered a motion to table which was seconded by Mr. Snyder. There was discussion regarding the project significant air quality benefits and concerns regarding approving this increase in the midst of a new application cycle. It was pointed out that the railroads did not submit any projects during the last call because of contract delays at IDOT. The scope change in the event of a contract breakthrough was suggested at that time. Additionally, the request for a Buy America waiver will be bolstered by the comprehensive nature of the request with this addition. Mr. Smith of the Norfolk Southern Railway further elaborated on the project's status and the reasoning for the increase. There was further discussion of the project's expected timing, and the federal requirement that the State obligate 25% of the CMAQ funds apportioned to it on projects that reduce fine particulate matter. The vote on the motion to table was called and the motion failed. A motion to approve the scope change and cost increase was offered by Mayor Keller and seconded by Mr. Carmitchel. That motion was approved.

5.5 Rolling Meadows – Arlington Park Train Station Bicycle Lane Extension (TIP ID 03-08-0004)

The sponsor requested a cost increase in the amount of \$89,000 total (\$71,200 federal/CMAQ) for right of way acquisition. On a motion by Mr. Carmitchel and a second by Ms. Hamilton, the request was approved.

6.0 FY 2014-2018 Program Development

6.1 Status Update

Chairman Patronsky reminded the Committee that there has been email correspondence between staff and committee members outlining concerns from the transit community regarding projects that do not entail clear cut phase one and phase two engineering steps as to what procedures and requirements they are subject to in order to demonstrate readiness for the FFY 2014-2018 call for projects. It was decided that CMAP staff will review the subject projects with applicants on a case by case basis and allow applicants to modify their submittals if warranted. Mr. Ferguson said he would report to the Committee on the results of the discussions at their next meeting.

6.2 Focus Groups

Chairman Patrosky stated that only the Transit Focus group has met since the last PSC meeting. Mr. Rodriguez reported that the Transit meeting was held on April 10. The focus group prepared a ranked list against the eight action areas in GO TO 2040. The group expects to develop their recommendations on the FFY 2014-18 applications for the PSC in late May or early June.

7.0 MAP-21

There was no new information to present. As discussed during the Norfolk Southern scope change request item, Buy America remains a substantial hurdle to implementing the required PM reduction projects.

8.0 Other Business

There was no other business.

9.0 Public Comment

Mr. Brian Urbaszewski of the Respiratory Health Association thanked the Committee for moving forward with the Norfolk Southern project to replace 14 switcher engines. He then asked the Committee to require Tier IV technology on all projects for diesel engine retrofits and replacements, as there is a substantial difference in air quality benefits with Tier IV technology over Tier III engines.

10.0 Next Meeting

The committee's next meeting is scheduled for May 23, 2013.

11.0 Adjournment

On a motion by Ms. Hamilton and a second by Mayor Keller, the meeting adjourned at 3:28 p.m.