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# Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

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## Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) Council of Mayors Executive Committee Meeting Draft Minutes

July 20, 2021

Via GoToMeeting.

Recording available: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IMvWaPj7Qbo>

**Members Present:** Chair Jeffery Schielke, President Emily Berendt, President Dave Brady, President Karen Darch, President Mike Einhorn, President Alice Gallagher, Mayor Gary Grasso, President Thomas Hayes, Mayor Teresa Kernc, President Bob Kolosh, President Greg Lungmus, Mayor Leon Rockingham, Mayor Glenn Ryback

**Staff Present:** Erin Aleman, Jonathan Burch, Alison Case, Patrick Day, Teri Dixon, Doug Ferguson, Stephanie Levine, Elliot Lewis, Tim McMahon, Martin Menninger, Jared Patton, Stephane Phifer, Russell Pietrowiak, Yousef Salama, Gordon Smith, Vicky Smith, Mary Weber, Simone Weil

**Others Present:** Elaine Bottomley, Mayor Kevin Burns, Lenny Cannata, Emily Daucher, Jon Paul Diipla, John Donovan, Jackie Forbes, Jessica Hector-Hsu, Thomas Kelso, Kendra Johnson, Thomas Kelso, Mike Klemens, Jill Leary, Jeremy LaMarche, Leslie Phemister, Suzette Quintell, Chad Riddle, Cheryl Scott, Michael Vanderhoof

### 1.0 Call to order/introductions

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Chair Schielke. New and current members introduced themselves.

### 2.0 Agenda changes and announcements

There were no agenda changes. Chair Schielke officially welcomed new members, and emphasized the importance of having all of the regional councils represented on the Council of Mayors.

### **3.0 Approval of the minutes**

A motion to approve the minutes of the January 19, 2021 and April 20, 2021 meetings, as presented, was made by Chair Schielke and seconded by President Darch. The motion carried.

### **4.0 CMAP update**

CMAP Executive Director Erin Aleman provided a brief overview of the most recent meeting of the CMAP Board, and reminded the Council that the Board will not meet in July or August. Ms. Aleman then congratulated Mayor Burns and the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus on the launch of the Climate Action Plan for the Chicago Region. Next, Ms. Aleman summarized her recent presentation to the Tollways Systems Review Committee, which focused on the nexus of green infrastructure and the region's transportation system. Finally, Ms. Aleman briefed the Council on her recent conversation with U.S. Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg. Ms. Aleman met with the Secretary and several other local, state, and federal transportation officials at the CSX Intermodal Yard in Bedford Park. They discussed the importance of the freight system, with an emphasis on reducing GHG emissions through investments in transit and freight infrastructure. Ms. Aleman emphasized to the Secretary that freight is the region's competitive advantage and is central to Chicagoland's economic development.

CMAP will host the agency's first State of the Region event on October 7, 2021. Ms. Aleman closed by reminding the Council that this will likely be their last virtual meeting.

### **5.0 STP Project Selection Committee Update**

Doug Ferguson provided an update on the recent work of the STP Project Selection Committee. The Committee last met on July 1, 2021. At the meeting, the Committee received an update on the status of current shared fund projects and a summary of the programming and obligations of the STP funds throughout the region. The committee also discussed the recommended programs, described in agenda item 6.0

### **6.0 Recommended CMAQ, TAP-L, and STP Shared Fund Programs Released for Public Comment**

Doug Ferguson provided a detailed overview of the recommended CMAQ, TAP-L, and STP Shared Fund Programs that were released for public comment on July 1. In total, the three programs include 50 projects totaling \$280 million in federal funding. Roughly half of all funds will be spent in the region's highest need (cohort four) communities.

The CMAQ program, which focusses on emissions reduction, includes 31 projects with a combined cost of \$190 million. The program is expected to result in a reduction of 113kg

of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) per day. The TAP-L program, which focusses on the implementation of the Regional Greenways and Trails Plan, includes 12 bicycle facility projects with a combined cost of \$22.4 million. The STP Shared fund program includes 9 projects worth \$46 million, and focusses on roadway reconstruction and safety improvements. Additional details on specific projects and programs is available in the Recommended CMAQ, TAP-L, and STP Shared Fund Programs Released for Public Comment memo.

Mr. Ferguson then explained that the public comment period will end on July 30, at which point the STP and CMAQ Project Selection Committees will review all comments and hold a final discussion before voting for program approval. Upon approval, CMAP staff will process TIP amendments to incorporate the approved programs. The amendments will then go to the Transportation Committee for a recommendation of approval on September 24. The CMAP Board and MPO Policy Committee will consider final approval in October.

Mr. Ferguson encouraged committee members to share the recommended programs with their staff and constituents, and submit any comments to [transportation@cmapp.illinois.gov](mailto:transportation@cmapp.illinois.gov) by July 30.

Mr. Ferguson reiterated that all information related to the call for project and recommended programs is available online, using the link included in the agenda.

## **7.0 IDOT Bureau of Local Roads Update**

Chad Riddle provided a brief update on the recent work of the IDOT Bureau of Local Roads. The Bureau is continuing to work from home four days per week. Lettings have continued since the last meeting. The Bureau had eight projects in June and three in July. The Bureau is planning to have seven projects in September and 18 in November. Right-of-way challenges slowed projects down in July, and they are working to ensure this is not a continued issue moving forward.

Chair Schielke emphasized that the committee has had a great relationship with IDOT in recent years, in large part because of Mr. Riddle's work, and encouraged committee members to reach out to Mr. Riddle with any questions or concerns. Mr. Riddle echoed Chair Schielke's comments and emphasized that it is easier to address concerns early in the process, so people should not hesitate to reach out.

## **8.0 Transit Performance-Based Capital Allocation Process**

Jill Leary, Deputy Executive Director for Capital Programming and Planning and Chief of Staff at Regional Transportation Authority (RTA), provided an overview of RTA's

recent work to develop a performance-based capital allocation structure, which was approved by the RTA Board on July 17.

Ms. Leary began her presentation by explaining RTA's role overseeing the capital programs for CTA, Metra, and Pace. Ms. Leary then explained that RTA also advocates for sustainable capital funding, and highlighted that while the recent capital bill has resulted in an influx of funding, system conditions will deteriorate again if this level of funding is not maintained. This is why a more stable funding system is needed.

Ms. Leary then reviewed past funding sources and planning processes, before discussing the development process for the performance-based capital allocation process, which will be applied to 2025 and 2026 capital funds. Under this system, funding was allocated according to three principles: 1) capital need, 2) capital expenditure performance and, 3) policy focus (priority projects, strategic goals, and core requirements). This process was presented to the RTA Board in June and a public comment period was held until July 1. Ms. Leary then reviewed the comments received prior to approval. RTA plans to use much of this feedback when developing the next strategic.

Following the completion of the presentation, President Einhorn asked for clarification of the difference between "exceeding useful life" and "state of good repair," and asked if this plan was primarily focused on rolling stock or infrastructure. Ms. Leary clarified that the plan looks at all assets affiliated with the transit system, and that these assets have a finite timeline of maintenance cycles that RTA tracks and plans for. President Einhorn then asked if RTA was planning for shifts brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. Ms. Leary explained that the current strategic plan has a 2023 horizon, and the new plan will take these recent shifts into account. Those conversations will begin in the fall.

Chair Schielke mentioned that the Council of Mayors and CMAP was following the process closely, and drafting a letter of support. President Darch emphasized the importance of reliable Metra service to suburban communities, and encouraged RTA not to draw conclusions about future ridership numbers too quickly.

## **9.0 Metropolitan Mayors Caucus Climate Action Plan**

Mayor Kevin Burns of Geneva provided an overview of the Metropolitan Mayor's Caucus's Climate Action Plan for the Chicago Region. The Caucus officially launched the plan on July 13 with a webinar attended by more than 600 stakeholders from throughout the region, and across the country. This is the first regional climate plan for the Chicago region, and only the third in the United States.

The plan was developed over a two-year period, with assistance from CMAP, The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the European Union's International Urban Cooperation (IUC) initiative.

The Caucus intends for the plan to be used as a framework for local climate action. By aligning themselves with the goals and objectives of this regional plan, communities can avoid the costs of developing their own plan, and get to work immediately.

Mayor Burns then played a video featuring Edith Makra of the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus and Dr. Ned Gardiner of NOAA, who gave a detailed overview of the mitigation and adaptation goals and objectives included in the plan.

Chair Schielke thanked Mayor Burns and the Mayors Caucus for their work, and emphasized that this is an important project and positions our region as a national leader.

#### **10.0 Committee Vacancies**

Chair Schielke provided an overview of existing vacancies within the Council of Mayors. The Council of Mayors Executive Committee currently has a vacancy for a second vice chair. The position was previously held by a representative from the southern portion of the region. There is also a vacancy for a representative from the Executive Committee to the STP Project Selection Committee. Chair Schielke previously held the position, and will continue to attend meetings as a non-voting member. Finally, there is a vacancy for a representative from the Executive Committee to the CMAQ Project Selection Committee.

President Einhorn was nominated to serve as the second vice chair by President Darch. The motion was seconded by Mayor Rockingham.

President Gallagher was nominated to serve on the STP Project Selection Committee by Mayor Kernc. The motion was seconded by Mayor Ryback.

Mayor Grasso was nominated to serve on the CMAQ Project Selection Committee by Mayor Rockingham. The motion was seconded by President Gallagher.

All three nominations were confirmed through a unanimous rollcall vote.

### **11.0 Local Government Network update**

Patrick Day provided an overview of the recent work of CMAP's Local Government Network (LGN). Since the last meeting, the Network completed three initiatives. In May, staff updated the Network's contact information to ensure accuracy following the municipal elections, and where appropriate, reached out to introduce themselves to newly elected officials. The Network also worked to promote the #VisitChicago tourism campaign by connecting municipalities with marketing resources and encouraging participation. Finally, in June, the Network shared resources related to the new Regional Excellence awards, which will be announced at the State of the Region event on Thursday, October 7.

The Network is finalizing its FY22 work plan. Staff is working to identify meaningful initiatives, while also leaving enough room to respond to emerging priorities, to ensure the relevance of Network communications.

### **12.0 Legislative update**

Tim McMahon provided an update on recent legislative activity at the federal level. President Biden's legislative framework is advancing through Senate, though the bill text has not yet been released. According to the framework, the legislation will provide roughly \$974 billion over the next five years, including \$579 billion in new or additional spending for transportation infrastructure and other infrastructure such as water and broadband.

CMAP is waiting for the release of the bill to see how it compares to the Invest Act, which was passed by the House earlier this month. That Bill included \$715 billion over five years for various forms of physical infrastructure. It is unclear how either chamber plans to pay for their bills, which is currently the biggest sticking point. Congress has until September 30 to pass a FAST Act extension or another reauthorization bill.

The Speaker of the House has indicated that the House will not pass a reauthorization bill until the Senate passes its \$3.2 trillion budget reconciliation package, which focusses on human infrastructure.

### **13.0 Other Business**

There was no other business.

### **14.0 Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**15.0 Next Meeting**

The next Council of Mayors Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for October 19, 2021.

**16.0 Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Schielke at 10:50am.

Respectfully submitted,

Jared Patton