



## CMAQ Project Selection Committee

Thursday November 18, 2010 2:00 p.m.

Cook County Conference Room

CMAQ Offices

### Meeting Minutes

**Members Present:** Chair - Ross Patronsky – CMAP, Marty Buehler – Counties, Larry Keller – Council of Mayors, Luann Hamilton– City of Chicago, Mark Pitstick - RTA, Mike Rogers – IEPA and Susan Stitt, IDOT.

**Members Absent:** None

**Others Present:** Leonard Cannata, Bruce Christensen, Steve Coffinbarger, Ashley Collins, Chris Dagiantis, Kama Dobbs, Marissa Dolin, John Donovan, Jonathon Doster, Laura Fedak, Jim Fiorito, David Heyden, Joel Koenig, Valbona Kokoshi, Bill Lenski, Louis Montgomery, Ed Neubauer, David Niemeyer, Keith Privett, Tom Rickert, Chad Riddle, Ron Schweninger, Lorraine Snorden, Jan Ward (via phone), Mike Walczak, Thomas Weaver, David Werner, and Tammy Wierciak.

**Staff Present:** Patricia Berry, Holly Ostdick, Joy Schaad

#### 1.0 Call to Order and Introductions

Chairman Patronsky opened the meeting at 2:02 p.m. Attendees introduced themselves.

#### 2.0 Agenda Changes and Announcements

There were no changes or announcements.

#### 3.0 Approval of October 21, 2010 Minutes

The October 21, 2010 meeting minutes were approved as presented, on a motion by Ms. Hamilton and a second by Mr. Rogers.

#### 4.0 Project Changes

##### 4.1 CTA – Diesel Particulate Filter Retrofit for CTA Buses (TIP ID 01-10-0004)

The CTA requested to move all funding into FFY 2011 for implementation. Ms. Ostdick reported that the CTA is moving forward on this project which was originally programmed for half funding in 2011 and half in 2012, but is moving well and would like all of its

funding in 2011. Staff recommended approval of the change. On a motion by Mr. Pitstick and a second by Mr. Rogers, the Committee voted to approve the request.

4.2 Kane County DOT – Randall Road at Fabyan Parkway (TIP ID 09-03-0001)

Kane County requested adding bus turnouts to the scope of work, staff recommends approval. Ms. Hamilton asked if this was the same project on the October status update later in the agenda. Ms. Ostdick said it was, and that the staff recommendation on this project has been revised. On a motion by Ms. Stitt and a second by Mr. Pitstick, the Committee voted to approve the request.

4.3 Schaumburg – Schaumburg Commuter Rail Facility Bikeway Connector - IL 19/Irving Park Rd Bike Path (TIP ID 03-06-0002)

The Village requested a cost increase of \$57,411 total (\$45,929 federal) and to move \$180,000 total (\$144,000 federal) from ROW into Construction. A re-ranking was completed and staff recommended approval, the rank remained unchanged in the 2002 bicycle facility improvements. On a motion by Mr. Buehler and a second by Ms. Hamilton, the committee voted to approve the request.

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

The sponsor is requesting a cost increase of \$209,000 total (\$167,000 federal) and a scope change from bike lanes to an off street bike path. Staff recommended approval. On a motion by Mayor Keller and a second by Mr. Pitstick, the committee voted to approve the request.

4.5 Bolingbrook - Lily Cache Ln from Veterans Pwy to IL 53/Bolingbrook Dr (TIP ID 12-09-0009)

The Village's request was to add CMAQ funding from TIP 12-09-0009 into 12-06-0037. Staff undertook this as an administrative modification.

4.6 Lake County DOT – Washington St Bike Path (sidepath) (TIP ID 10-10-0002)

The County's request was to transfer \$120,000 total (\$96,000 federal) to phase 1 engineering. Staff undertook this as an administrative modification.

## 5.0 Program Management

### 5.1 October Status Update

Mr. Patronsky said that:

- Staff applied the criteria for recommending removing projects from the program strictly
- Staff tried to be even-handed and not go easy on certain classes of sponsors or project types
- We relied on the planning liaisons as our primary communication channel once the status updates were submitted
- Some of the projects originally recommended for removal have submitted additional information that staff believes justifies retention in the program
- Sponsor response was much better in this status update cycle than it was in May; we expect that this will continue to improve as we do more updates

- All CMAQ projects are good projects; that is why they were included in the program.

Ms. Ostdick reported that this was the first time that we had second schedule adjustments being requested. This resulted in a lot of phone calls, e-mails and letters from concerned sponsors. Because of coordination after the agenda was posted a number of staff recommendations have been adjusted. Ms. Ostdick provided highlights of each project's status report and coordination that occurred with outside agencies on the project. It was decided to make a committee assessment of each and then consider them as a group at the end for voting. While the voting was done at the end – the final disposition is listed with each project in the minutes.

**01-03-0019 - Lakefront Trail Expansion, Ardmore Ave to Sheridan Rd - ENG-1 (\$300,000)**

Ms. Ostdick reported that CMAP received a status update on November 16 stating that responses are being submitted for their RFP. They requested the project be moved into 2011, which was the one-time move for this project. *The project was retained in the CMAQ program.*

**01-99-0019 - Barrier-Free Cycling Chicago Construction (\$11,306)**

This project did not make progress in 2010 and was recommended by staff for removal from the program. The sponsor agreed with that recommendation. *The project was removed from the CMAQ program.*

**03-09-0008 – Hoffman Estates' Higgins Rd. Pedestrian and Bicycle Project Construction (\$600,000)**

The agreement was delayed due to the project not being accurately represented in the TIP. The agreement is moving forward and the sponsor is expeditiously working on the project. *The project was retained in the CMAQ program.*

**04-08-0002 – Northlake's Grand Ave Sidewalk from Northwest Ave to Rhodes Ave Eng-2 (\$1,973,000 full project cost)**

This project was moved to 2011. *The project was retained in the CMAQ program.*

**04-09-0004 – IDOT's US 12/45/Mannheim Rd at Lawrence Ave. Construction in Melrose Park. (\$120,000)** This project was awarded using non-CMAQ funds and so was recommended for removal and the project sponsor agreed. *The project was removed from the CMAQ program.*

**04-99-0004 – Melrose Park's 25th Ave. from IL 64/North Ave to Lake St. - Eng-1, Eng-2 and ROW (\$2,136,623)**

There was no update submitted. The project was recommended for removal and the project sponsor agreed. *The project was removed from the CMAQ program.*

**07-06-0002 - University Park's Cicero Ave Shared Use Path – Eng-2 (\$258,800)**

The sponsor provided a letter on November 15<sup>th</sup> describing coordination issues and why the project will move forward now. The project's Eng-1 is linked to other projects which include IDOT's new interchange at I-57 and University Parkway which is currently in Eng-2

and is scheduled for a summer 2012 letting and a reconstruction project of University Parkway which is a locally initiated project for which IDOT's District One Bureau of Local Roads has stated that Eng-1 and Eng-2 are completed and it is scheduled for construction in 2012. *The project was retained in the CMAQ program.*

**08-05-0005 - Oak Brook Employment Area Distributor Service - Eng-2 & Implementation (\$960,000)**

The Village submitted a status update for the wrong phase, but the status is that it has been at IDOT since November of 2009 and the agreement is still not executed. The sponsor has followed up with IDOT Central Office three times since November of 2009 and still does not have an executed agreement. The Village has begun work by developing a committee and hiring a consultant. According to IDOT District One's Local Roads staff, the fact that this work was so non-traditional for IDOT Central Office and District One Local Roads processing was a big part of the problem and the approval is imminent. *The project was retained in the CMAQ program.*

**09-03-0001 - Randall Road at Fabyan Parkway – ROW (\$2,797,366)**

This phase has been authorized and cannot be removed from the program. *The project was retained in the CMAQ program.*

**09-06-0001 - Geneva North Central Trail Construction**

The City indicated that they do not have sufficient capital funds to supply the local match for this project and have agreed to be removed from the program. *The project was removed from the CMAQ program.*

**09-09-0006 Elgin Bikeway Plan Route 1 NE Quadrant Construction - \$304,774, and 09-09-0007 Elgin Bikeway Plan Route 4 SW Quadrant Construction - \$2,540,901**

Elgin had requested construction be moved to 2011 and 2012 during the 2009 October status updates. The 2011 and 2012 dates constitute their one time move on each. *The projects were retained in the CMAQ program.*

**10-02-0007 - Lake Zurich-US 12/Rand Road at Ela Road Construction \$634,079**

The Village submitted an update for Eng-2 but not for construction. This project, because it includes a State route, had a scope expansion and coordination with IDOT District One required a new Eng-1. This project has not used a onetime move; it was on the list because of the failure to submit an update for construction. After speaking with IDOT District One, it was stated that coordination with the railroad is also holding up this project. *The project was retained in the CMAQ program.*

**10-08-0001 - Lake Zurich S. Old Rand Rd and Surryse Rd Sidewalks Construction - \$264,374**

The Village is requesting a second schedule adjustment for construction. The municipality had an issue with IDOT District One Bureau of Local Roads accepting a categorical exclusion without a report, but it was eventually approved in July 2010. The municipality then began Eng-2 which is still underway. They have a goal to have pre-final plans submitted by January 28<sup>th</sup> which would put them on schedule for a June 2011 letting. They have put MFT funding into the engineering of this project to avoid IDOT Central Office agreement processing delays. IDOT District One Bureau of Local Roads staff stated that the

project is on a reasonable schedule for a letting in June of 2011. *The project was retained in the CMAQ program.*

**10-10-0005 - Round Lake Park's IL 134/Main Street Sidewalk Project - \$288,000**

This project does not have CMAQ funding for phase 2 engineering. *The project was retained in the CMAQ program.*

**11-07-0002 McHenry County DOT's Virginia Rd at IL 31 (southwest quadrant) Construction - \$282,458**

This project was moved to 2011 previously. *The project was retained in the CMAQ program.*

**11-09-0009 Lake in the Hills Parks & Recreation Dept. Village Bike Rack Installation (\$22,664)**

A request for federal authorization was made on November 16 and is expected to be acted on within two weeks. *The project was retained in the CMAQ program.*

**13-09-0001 - Cook Co DOEC - Cook County Fleet Diesel Retrofit Implementation (\$541,611)**

Subsequent to the October 31 deadline for status updates, Cook County was contacted via phone and sent a copy of the e-mail requesting the status update. On Monday, November 15<sup>th</sup> staff received an e-mail from Kevin Givens stating he would contact CMAP, but has not. Ashley Collins of the Respiratory Health Association spoke about the difficulties the project had obtaining approval for soft match and now having the approval to use federal penalty dollars as source for the local match. She asked that the Committee defer their decision until an answer can be obtained. Action on *this project was deferred until more information is available.*

**08-10-0002- Bensenville's Jefferson St. Sidewalk Improvements – Evergreen to York Rd. Eng-2 (\$21,600)**

This project was recommended for removal by the Committee after the May status updates, but has not been officially acted upon by the MPO Policy Committee. They are making progress now and have asked to be reinstated and moved to FFY 2011. The Committee agreed asking staff to make it clear to the Village that this is their one-time move. *The project was retained in the CMAQ program.*

On a motion from Ms. Stitt and a second from Mr. Pitstick, the project dispositions were approved as indicated in italicized text with each project discussion above. Mr. Buehler then asked staff what lessons were learned during the October status updates, given the extraordinary amount of staff time and effort that went into them. Mr. Patronsky commented that we have the sponsors' attention; there is a better understanding of the need to move quickly. Ms. Ostdick agreed and commented that it seems to be getting better now that the Planning Liaisons are more involved urging the sponsors to submit. A suggestion was made that the Planning Liaisons be the sole communication link between CMAP and the sponsors. Many issues with sponsor miscommunications can be avoided if the Planning Liaison be given the authority to request and transmit the status information. All agreed and Bruce Christensen, PL for Lake County Council of Mayors, agreed to brief all at the November 19 meeting of the planning liaisons.

## 6.0 Five Year Program

Ms. Berry kicked off the discussion reminding the committee that at the last meeting, CMAP Executive Director Randy Blankenhorn addressed the group to explain the importance of tying CMAQ programming decisions to GO TO 2040, utilizing a focused approach. Mr. Blankenhorn stated that putting a significant amount of funding to a particular work type would show the users of the system a significant improvement, as opposed to a smattering of different kinds of improvements that are not as obvious. Ms. Berry highlighted some subsequent discussions with individual members and handed out a draft summary on the concept of a five year program. She noted that the version she distributed included comments from Marty Buehler and thanked him for all his work. She pointed out that most of the committee members stated that they would like to include a mechanism to add projects to the program, to be able to reprioritize projects and to keep the recently instituted CMAQ A List procedures intact. She commented that the CMAQ A List gives the region the ability to be responsive and place ready projects in the program when other projects get delayed.

Ms. Berry reiterated the importance of putting GO TO 2040 into action and drew attention to Mr. Buehler's discussion of goals and performance measures. A table that was prepared for UWP discussions and ties GO TO 2040 goals and themes were distributed.

Ms. Berry said the CMAQ Project Selection Committee (PSC) will retain its role of developing a program for consideration by the MPO Policy Committee under any scenario. The intent is to use CMAP committees and ad hoc groups to prioritize projects within categories. An air quality analysis will be an essential component in determining which projects are programmed. Mr. Pitstick pointed out that we still will have to have a step to determine what projects have sponsors that are willing and able to take on the projects. Some members suggested doing a call for projects to find out sponsor intentions and others thought doing both a five year programming exercise based on other committees and groups recommending projects by work types and a traditional call for projects would be confusing. Ms. Stitt pointed out that even the small CMAQ projects can be a big deal for smaller sponsors and it is important that while these communities may not participate directly in the CMAP committees and ad hoc groups, they should not be left out of the program.

Mike Rogers expressed the concern that these committees and other groups may come up with project ideas that help implement GO TO 2040 but only have mediocre air quality benefits. If that is the case, the Committee is no longer in a position to maximize the air quality benefit to the region. Several members agreed that we need to keep air quality goals foremost. Mr. Privett gave an example of a long bike path that was of high interest to the CMAP bicycle and pedestrian task force (the "I-355 bridge" - Veterans Memorial Trail from International Dr. to Centennial Trail) and would likely be included in their prioritized list, but since an analysis has shown it has very low cost/ton emissions benefits it would not likely be selected for the CMAQ program. Mr. Donovan stated that the work that all the groups do moves towards implementing GO TO 2040 but that these groups need to think about their work not only in policy terms but in terms of what projects or groups of projects need to be advanced to implement their pieces of GO TO 2040. If there are projects within these groups of projects that are eligible and competitive for CMAQ, then the CMAQ PSC need to consider them for funding. Projects that are not good for CMAQ should be kept on the radar.

Mr. Patronsky suggested that when the Committee is giving guidance and dollar targets to each of the groups, they could provide a dollar target that is 50% over the amount actually available, for example, so that the PSC can pick the ones that have the best air quality benefit and have willing sponsors. Several members warned that we will have to manage expectations if the PSC intends to pick and choose from their recommendations and there may be some difficult judgment calls to make. Mr. Rogers pointed out that in the current system the committee had the freedom to consider which projects are most ready to go, and which connect with adjacent projects to help fill in a system by not following the ranked list strictly and programming projects with such other strengths. Ms. Stitt suggested an alternate plan based on a traditional call for projects approach but asking the focus area committees and groups to meet before the call for projects to set priorities and encourage good projects, and then meet again after all the projects are submitted to provide commentary on each project application in their area of expertise.

It was decided that more thought and fleshing out of the proposal is required on this and that staff would work to re-write the summary of the proposal addressing the comments that Mr. Buehler submitted and other comments other members wish to forward. The Committee agreed to meet again in the coming weeks to develop a process that addresses GO TO 2040 and emphasizes the air quality and congestion reduction benefits of projects.

**7.0 Public Comment**

There were no public comments.

**8.0 Other Business**

There was no other business.

**9.0 Next Meeting**

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday November 30, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. at the CMAP offices and a tentative meeting was scheduled for Wednesday December 15 at 10:00 a.m. also at the CMAP offices.

**10.0 Adjournment**

On a motion by Mr. Rogers and a second by Mr. Buehler, the committee voted to adjourn the meeting at 3:38 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



*Holly Ostidick*  
CMAQ Program Manager  
/JMS