



# Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

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## Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program Project Selection Committee Minutes November 17, 2009

**Cook County Conference Room  
233 S. Wacker Drive, Suite 800  
Chicago, Illinois**

**Members Present:** Chairman Ross Patronsky – CMAP, Marty Buehler – Counties, Larry Keller – Council of Mayors, Luann Hamilton – City of Chicago, Mark Pitstick - RTA, Mike Rogers – IEPA (via phone), Betsy Tracy – IDOT

**Members Absent:** None

**Others Present:** Kristen Bennett, Todd Bright (via phone), Lil Budzinski, Lenny Cannata, Akram Chaudhry, Steve Coffinbarger, Mike Connelly, Kama Dobbs, Adam M. Letendie, Adam Longman, Keith Privett, Tom Rickert, Chad Riddle (via phone), Tony Simmons, Chris Staron, Emily Stewart, David Tomzik, Thomas Weaver, David Werner, Tammy Wierciak

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

### 1.0 Call to Order and Introductions

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

### 2.0 Agenda Changes and Announcements

The Committee moved agenda item 10 forward and scheduled the next meeting for Thursday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, at 2:00 p.m. at CMAP.

### 3.0 Approval of October 30, 2009 Minutes

On a motion by M. Pitstick and a second by M. Buehler, the minutes for the October 30, 2009 meeting were approved with the addition of Lorraine Snorden of Pace to the list of those present.

### 4.0 FY 2010-2011 CMAQ Program

4.1 Status of Program

Staff informed the committee that notification letters were emailed to all of the FY 2010 & 2011 funding recipients on November 3. The new projects are scheduled to be added to the TIP at the November 20 Transportation Committee meeting. CMAP will hold two project initiation meetings at IDOT on November 18<sup>th</sup> for the new suburban project sponsors. Attendance at an initiation meeting is mandatory for 2010 & 2011 project sponsors. Initiation meetings will be held in the near future for sponsors of transit and locomotive repower projects and for City of Chicago sponsoring agencies.

## **5.0 Project Changes**

### **5.1 Carol Stream – Kuhn Rd Bike Path from Lies Rd to Great Western Trail – (TIP ID 08-07-0013)**

On a motion by M. Buehler and a second by L. Hamilton, the committee approved the request to move funds from construction engineering to phase II engineering and right of way.

### **5.2 Kane County DOT – Mooseheart Rd at Illinois Route 31 – (TIP ID 09-08-0004).**

On a motion by L. Keller and a second by L. Hamilton, the committee approved the request to transfer the project sponsorship to IDOT for Phase II engineering, ROW, and Construction and to move all of the project's funding to the construction phase in 2012. This is the project's one-time move.

### **5.3 Aurora – Galena Blvd from Locust St to Ohio St - (TIP ID 09-05-0002)**

Akram Chaudhry, consultant for Aurora, explained that the initial application had neglected to include the needed signal upgrades for the interconnect project and Aurora is now requesting an additional \$674,923 (federal) for construction. A March 2010 letting is anticipated. On a motion by L. Keller and a second by M. Buehler the cost increase was approved.

### **5.4 Aurora – IL 31/Lake St from Indiana Trail Rd to Gale St - (TIP ID 09-05-0002)**

The sponsor is requesting an additional \$931,616 (federal) for construction because the initial application had neglected to include the needed signal upgrades for the interconnect project. Chairman Patronsky asked the Aurora representative if there would be any more requests for this in the future and Mr. Chaudhry assured him that subsequent applications did not overlook this aspect of work. On a motion by M. Buehler and a second by L. Keller, the committee approved the request.

## **6.0 Program Management**

### **6.1 Rescissions**

Staff highlighted the points made in the November 10 memo entitled "Implementing option C" and pointed out that a new draft list of the affected projects was handed out. This list of CMAQ projects that have never had an obligation totals approximately \$195 million. There are about 153 projects comprised of old projects and new 2010 and 2011 projects. The committee asked that staff distinguish the projects put into this category with a name other than "MYB" and it was decided to call it a "CMAQ A list". Both CDOT and Kane County representatives noted that some of the projects on the list should be removed. Ms. Ostdick agreed and noted that as obligations occur, the draft list will change several times between

now and implementation which is anticipated shortly after the January 14 MPO Policy Committee decision on moving forward.

There was discussion of how these projects fit with the "one-time move" policy. It was clarified that projects on the CMAQ A list would be subject to the programming policies as if they were currently in the program.

Mike Connelly of CTA pointed out that there are a lot of unknowns and new challenges with these new polices and warned that a "hard and fast" approach would not be appropriate. Tom Rickert from Kane County pointed out that some projects are in IDOT's Central office for 8-10 months for agreement approval. He said that their experience is that sometimes the forms change over the intervening time and the agreements need to be re-written. Marty Buehler pointed out that the new procedures allow for due consideration for delays that are out of the sponsors' control. Chad Riddle of IDOT and others commented that the hope is that we can weed out projects that are just not moving with this new "use it or lose it" mechanism. Mr. Keller stated this would identify dormant projects.

The committee determined that moving from CMAQ A into the TIP is not considered a move for "one-time move" purposes; only a change of fiscal year is considered a move.

Mike Rogers reminded the group that we have a large unobligated balance, and actually dropping some projects out of the CMAQ program will address both the rescission and the problem of stagnant projects. Keith Privett of CDOT asked for clarification of how it would be viewed if a project moves from the CMAQ A list into the TIP near the end of the fiscal year and then the processing is not complete by September 30<sup>th</sup>. Ross Patronsky responded that we would not penalize a project that is truly moving and just misses the September 30 fiscal year turn over.

The committee was in basic agreement on the approach and asked staff to make some adjustments to the explanatory memo before the recommendation goes to the Transportation Committee. They asked staff to develop a new name for this option; to use the new name of the list (CMAQ A); to point out that this is geared toward weeding out "dormant" projects and not intended to penalize projects which are moving. It was pointed out that there is another CMAQ meeting and two Transportation Committee meetings before the Policy Committee meets on January 14 – so additional revisions can take place if needed. On a motion by L. Keller and a second by M. Pitstick, the committee approved the recommendation for Transportation Committee consideration.

## 6.2 Status of projects with FY 2009 deadlines.

Holly Ostdick reported on project sponsors with phases in 2009 that were required to give a status update by the end of October. An explanatory memo and spreadsheet of the projects were provided in advance. All sponsors have responded now. Eighty one projects used their "one-time move" from 2009 to 2010 representing about \$210 million of federal funding. Five projects were withdrawn by the sponsors which freed up over \$3 million. On a motion by M. Pitstick and a second by L. Hamilton, the committee approved the one-time moves, withdrawals and other changes of the listed projects.

**7.0 Funding Private Sector Diesel Emission Reduction Projects**

Patricia Berry reported that staff has been seeking information to use in the memo to the MPO Policy Committee providing background information on funding private sector diesel emission reduction projects. She has received information from the air regulating agencies and the Respiratory Health Association on cost effectiveness of these projects. She expects to have a one page memo and links to the research papers and other documentation received to date. The memo will also link language from the agreement between the private sector recipients, the sponsoring local agency and IDOT to clarify how CMAP monitors and assures that the retrofitted locomotives stay within our region. The committee rejected the idea of offering a “cap” for this type of project in lieu of maintaining flexibility to do what is best for the region’s air quality in each programming cycle. Mark Pitstick suggested adding language about how well past projects in this category have performed. Staff will provide a draft memo to the committee before the next meeting.

**8.0 Public Comment**

There were no public comments.

**9.0 Other Business**

There was no other business.

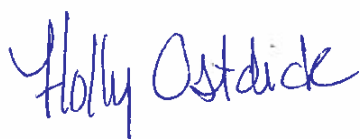
**10.0 Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday December 17th at 2:00 p.m. at CMAP.

**11.0 Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Holly Ostdick  
Manager, CMAQ Program