

## DRAFT

### MPO Policy Committee Meeting Minutes June 14, 2007

The meeting was held at the offices of the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, Cook County Conference Room, 233 S. Wacker Drive, Chicago, Illinois. Those present at the meeting were:

#### Policy Committee Members Present

<b>Ken Koehler, Vice-Chair</b>	<b>McHenry County</b>
<b>Marty Buehler</b>	<b>Lake County</b>
<b>Lynette H. Ciavarella</b>	<b>Metra</b> (Representing Philip A. Pagano)
<b>Tom Cuculich</b>	<b>DuPage County</b>
<b>Paul Fish</b>	<b>CTA (Alternate)</b>
<b>Rupert Graham, Jr.</b>	<b>Cook County (Alternate)</b>
<b>Cheri Heramb</b>	<b>Chicago Department of Transportation</b>
<b>John McCarthy</b>	<b>Private Transportation Providers</b>
<b>Ed Paesel</b>	<b>Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission</b>
<b>Mike Payette</b>	<b>Class One Railroad Companies</b>
<b>Leanne Redden</b>	<b>RTA</b> (Representing Steve Schlickman)
<b>Tom Rickert</b>	<b>Kane County</b> (Representing Karen McConnaughay)
<b>T. J. Ross</b>	<b>Pace</b> (Representing Richard Kwasneski)
<b>Dick Smith</b>	<b>IDOT</b> (Representing Milt Sees)
<b>Jeffery Schielke</b>	<b>Council of Mayors</b>
<b>Norm Stoner</b>	<b>Federal Highway Administration</b>
<b>Lawrence Walsh</b>	<b>Will County</b>
<b>Mary Wells</b>	<b>Illinois State Toll Highway Authority</b> (Representing Rocco J. Zuccherro)

#### Policy Committee Members Absent

<b>Marisol Simon</b>	<b>FTA</b>
<b>John Rita</b>	<b>Mass Transit Districts</b>
<b>Bob Davidson</b>	<b>Kendall County</b>

#### Visitors

<b>Vanessa Adams</b>	<b>FTA</b>
<b>Chris DiPalma</b>	<b>FHWA</b>
<b>Peter Faberwald</b>	<b>CTA</b>
<b>Glenn Fulkerson</b>	<b>FHWA</b>
<b>Jacky Grimshaw</b>	<b>CNT</b>
<b>Kit Hodge</b>	<b>MPC</b>

Luann Hamilton	CDOT
Joe Korpalski	McHenry County
Jon-Paul Kohler	FHWA
Tam Kutzmark	DMMC
Jamy Lyne	Will County
Jim LaBelle	CM2020
Les Nunes	IDOT-OPP
Bob Pilat	Village of Niles
Mark Pitstick	RTA
Dave Seglin	CDOT
Mike Walczak	NWMC
Laura Wilkison	Consultant
ErinWillrett	KKCOM

### Staff

Randy Blankenhorn, Patricia Berry, Janet Bright, Bob Dean,  
Dolores Dowdle, Jill Leary, Hubert Morgan, Brian Rademacher,  
Joy Schaad, Amy Talbot, Ron Thomas, Patricia Tinnelle, Ty Warner

#### ***I. CALL TO ORDER***

Vice-Chair Koehler called the meeting to order at 10:04 am.

#### ***II. OLD BUSINESS***

##### **A. Approval of Minutes for May 25, 2007.**

On a motion by Ms. Heramb, seconded by Mayor Schielke, the minutes of the meetings on March 14, 2007 and May 25, 2007 were approved.

##### **B. Council of Mayors' Report**

Mayor Schielke reported that the Executive Committee met on May 21 and endorsed the update to the 2030 Regional Transportation Plan. The Committee also discussed the Flexible Match Program. This program allows Councils to use a wide variety of public and private contributions of funds, land, materials and engineering as local match. Meetings were conducted within each Council area to determine how they wanted to proceed with the Flexible Match Program. The Councils were somewhat evenly divided on the value of the program. It was determined by the Committee that the use of the Flexible Match Initiative Program should be the decision of each individual Council. Steve Schlickman of the RTA give an overview of the transit funding situation, and Randy Blankenhorn and Gordon Smith updated the Committee on legislation impacting CMAP. The local STP program had six projects on the April letting totaling \$7.8 million in federal funds. The June letting is targeting 13 projects with STP involvement totaling \$10.3 million in federal funding.

##### **C. Executive Director's Report**

There was no Executive Director's report.

### **III. NEW BUSINESS**

#### **A. Bylaws**

Ms. Berry reported that draft amended bylaws were released for public comment in March. No comments on the proposed changes were received. The revisions were designed to embrace the evolution of CMAP. Changes include adding two CMAP members to the Policy Committee, shortening the length of the comment period on proposed amendments to the bylaws, and other revisions that are consistent with the memorandum of understanding that was adopted between the Policy Committee and the CMAP board in March of this year. On a motion by Mr. Buehler, seconded by Mayor Schielke, the proposed changes to the bylaws were approved.

#### **B. Transportation Committee**

Ms. Berry said that one of the changes in the bylaws eliminates the description of the Work Program Committee in recognition of its evolution into the CMAP Transportation Committee. The memorandum of understanding specifies that the Policy Committee and the CMAP Board jointly designate the members of the transportation committee. The CMAP Board approved those members at its last meeting. She listed the changes between the composition of the Transportation Committee and the Work Program Committee and explained that future changes could be made by agreement between the Policy Committee and the CMAP board without having to amend the MPO bylaws. On a motion by Mr. Cuculich, seconded by Mr. Dick Smith, the membership of the Transportation Committee was approved.

#### **C. Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)**

Ms. Schaad explained that while work is underway on northeast Illinois' first ever Regional Comprehensive Plan, until that plan is adopted, the 2030 RTP will guide transportation investments and strategies for our region and that the capital element and strategic systems portions of the RTP were updated last fall to meet air quality conformity requirements. This year significant changes to the RTP text in the areas of policy context, objectives and strategies were made. The most significant changes were in areas related to safety; security planning, the 2040 Regional Framework Plan; environmental sensitivity and support; operations and management, economic and community development; human services planning, and public participation. She reported that the RTP was subject to a 30 day public comment period and that we received comments from the Villages of Oak Park and Orland Park, a resident in Buffalo Grove and the Lake County Storm Water Management Commission. The comments were reviewed and responded to through the RTP Committee and several other CMAP committees. In many cases we could explain where the comment was already addressed in this update or the capital element update, and in several cases the concern translated into a programming issue. On a motion by Mr. Fish, seconded by Mayor Schielke, the Policy Committee adopted Resolution 07-07, approving the updated 2030 Regional Transportation Plan.

#### **D. Unified Work Program**

Mr. Nunes provided the committee with an overview of the proposed Unified Work Program for FY 2008. It has been recommended for approval by the Transportation Committee. The proposed projects total \$18.4 million and there were no comments received during the public comment period.

Ms. Heramb commented that the city of Chicago had wanted to obtain some planning funds to continue planning work on the CREATE rail restructuring program which was ruled ineligible by the federal government. The project ranked extremely well with the UWP Committee, but was ruled not eligible for UWP funding by USDOT. The City feels that there is much planning work still to be done on many of the projects within the CREATE Program.

Ms. Heramb requested that the Policy Committee send a letter of support for the project to the federal administrator and stress the need for continued coordination on this project. There is a major concern that if planning does not continue it will be difficult to coordinate with the local communities that are impacted by some of the major elements in the restructuring of the rail system. A number of members expressed strong support for the city of Chicago's position regarding this use of planning funds.

Representatives of the US Department of Transportation explained that while they fully support CREATE, the real issue is the regulatory restraint on certain uses of planning funds.

On a motion by Ms. Heramb, seconded by Mr. Buehler, the Committee directed staff to send a letter to USDOT expressing support for the use of planning funds for the CREATE projects. .

On a motion by Mr. Rickert, seconded by Mayor Schielke, the Committee adopted Resolution 07-08 endorsing the 2008 Unified Work Program.

#### **E. Legislative Activities**

Mr. Blankenhorn briefed the Committee on the status of Senate Bill 1201. He explained that it has passed both chambers of the General Assembly and while not a perfect bill, it does move to the next step in implementing regional planning in northeast Illinois.

There was a discussion regarding the designation within SB1201 of a committee to deal with changes to Facility Planning Areas. Prior to the final version of the bill, it had been discussed that a task force would be formed to determine how to handle FPA change requests in the future. Mr. Blankenhorn explained that the addition to the bill came at the very end of the legislative session and was offered as an alternative to adding two members to the CMAP board from wastewater agencies. He emphasized that CMAP did not support this change and will still be looking to change the FPA process to make it part of the regional planning process.

Mr. Blankenhorn also discussed the issue related to the Governor's request to appoint five members to the CMAP Board. Given the four-fifths majority required for board decisions, these appointments would give the Governor a virtual veto over anything the Board wanted to pass. The Board has strongly opposed this amendment. Negotiations with the Governor's staff on this issue will continue.

#### **F. Public Participation Plan**

Mr. Morgan briefed the Committee on a number of features of the proposed Public Participation Plan. First of all, it goes beyond the existing plan not only in terms of how the public would be engaged such as through the internet and visualization techniques, but also in how the plan goes beyond transportation since CMAP now deals with a broader range of issues. He spoke of the role the Citizens' Advisory Committee played in the development of the plan and how they established three goals: outreach to the public; engagement of the public; and sustain that relationship. The Transportation Committee recommends Policy Committee approval of the Plan.

Mr. Blankenhorn explained that he was asking the Policy Committee to approve an overall agency public participation plan that meets the federal requirements for the transportation component. Although the CATS Public Participation Plan was the starting point, the goal was to have a comprehensive plan covering all facets of planning.

On a motion by Mr. Buehler, seconded by Mr. Paesel, the Policy Committee adopted Resolution 07-09, approving the Public Participation Plan for northeastern Illinois.

#### **G. Agency Funding**

Mr. Blankenhorn briefed the Committee on the funding issues related to cash-flow that are facing the agency. He explained that CMAP had a contract with IDOT that called for four quarterly advances. The first two quarterly advances have been paid. The third and fourth have not. CMAP had to open a line of credit which basically uses taxpayers' money to finance money owed to the agency. It puts the MPO process in jeopardy. Mr. Blankenhorn said there was a productive meeting with IDOT staff and the governor's office recently, but he is not sure of the actual outcome. He expressed hope that these conversations can lead to a better way to set up contracts for next year.

Mr. Dick Smith informed the committee that the Secretary and the Chief of Staff are in the Thompson Center right now talking to the Governor's staff about this issue and that is why they couldn't be here. He emphasized that it is the Department's intent to solve this problem and solve it as soon as possible.

Mayor Schielke emphasized the importance of the planning liaison program. He noted that a number of communities were dependent upon the program to effectively manage their transportation investments. He asked that the minutes reflect the concern of the Council of Mayors regarding this situation and

specifically its impact on the PL program. Speaking for himself, he remarked that situations like this make a constitutional convention amendment in the 2008 primary a very attractive scenario for mayors like him.

Responding to a question, Mr. Dick Smith said that issues surrounding audits done of past contracts are troubling. IDOT is working with the entities here, Mr. Blankenhorn and Chairman Bennett to try to resolve those issues.

Mr. Blankenhorn acknowledged that there were issues in the past under the previous agencies, and emphasized that CMAP has put a whole new set of Policies and Procedures in place. The Federal Highway Administration has recently weighed in on the issue of non-payment by IDOT and Mr. Blankenhorn said that between the various parties, he hopes there will be a quick resolution to these issues.

#### **H. MPO Agreements and Bylaws**

Ms. Berry said that as we continue to evolve into a regional agency there is a need to address the MPO bylaws again, as well as existing agreement involving the CMAP predecessor agencies. She asked that the bylaws subcommittee be activated to make recommendations on further revisions that should be made and to review the agreements. It was recommended that the bylaws committee be re-activated as recently constituted with IDOT, the Council of Mayors, the RTA, the City of Chicago and the counties serving.

The nominating committee should also be activated at this meeting, as the bylaws so dictate. Chairman Koehler recommended CTA, the Council of Mayors and DuPage County to serve on the nominating committee.

Mr. Paesel moved to activate both committees with the recommended membership. Mr. Rickert seconded, and the motion passed.

#### **I. Regional Comprehensive Plan**

Mr. Dean gave a short presentation on the regional comprehensive plan. He noted that CMAP is required to develop an integrated plan for land use and transportation by the fall of 2010. He outlined the six step process that we are going through in the development of the plan and the three activities that are currently underway. First is the development of a vision for the future of the region which will involve all of the working committees, the Policy Committee, the CMAP Board and our partner agencies. The second piece being worked on is a series of reports on documenting the conditions in the region. These are called regional snapshot reports. A third step is the development of an evaluation of strategies. The fourth step is where everything comes together with the analysis of the alternative scenarios, both quantitative and qualitative. The fifth step is when capital projects are introduced. The starting point here is the 2030 RTP and the recommendations that it made for capital projects but there will also be an opportunity for implementers to propose new projects to for consideration. The final step is the composition of the plan where we put everything together and ask this group to adopt the final plan.

**J. Illinois Tollway Value Pricing Project**

Ms. Wells briefed the committee on the various value pricing initiatives that the Tollway is currently investigating. She noted that in 2003, the FHWA granted the Tollway a relatively small grant to study some different pricing options. They started out looking at a wide range of issues including peak differentials, shoulder riding, cash versus I-Pass, HOV and HOT lanes, vehicle pricing and dynamic price setting. The initial intent was to do a pilot on the I-88 corridor. There was some focus group work and stated preference surveys which the Tollway used to analyze and better understand how the system was being used by people. A lot of this work went into developing the rate structures. They also conducted trucker interview which will be revisited soon to get a type of before and after stated preference survey. The Tollway also received \$750,000 in funding for an additional study that should be starting soon. Plans are to work with the Metropolitan Planning Council on that project.

There was some discussion about the scope of the upcoming study going beyond just the tollway system which was of interest to DuPage County. There is concern there that diversions from the tollroads would be absorbed by the local system which may not be able to handle the increase in traffic. DuPage, McHenry and Lake County expressed an interest in participating in the study.

**IV. OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Walsh discussed the letter that had been referred to by Mr. Blankenhorn. He expressed a concern that some material infers that the Policy Committee is not the MPO. He feels there is a need to make sure everyone is clear that this Committee is the MPO and has all the responsibilities of an MPO.

**V. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is scheduled for October 11, 2007.