

MEETING OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE

to be held at the

CHICAGO METROPOLITAN AGENCY FOR PLANNING
233 South Wacker Drive, Suite 800
Chicago, Illinois

Cook County Conference Room

Thursday, January 10, 2008
10:00 a.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. OLD BUSINESS

**A. Approval of Minutes for
October 11, 2007**

The minutes are attached.

ACTION REQUESTED

Approval by Policy Committee

B. Council of Mayors' Report

C. CMAP Report

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Bylaws

ACTION REQUESTED

Release of proposed changes to the bylaws for a 30 day comment period

The bylaws subcommittee has identified the changes necessitated by Senate Bill 1201. The current bylaws require a 30 day comment period on proposed changes to the bylaws. The Committee will be asked to release the proposed changes for the 30 day public comment period. The proposed bylaws, with changes indicated are attached.

B. RTP and TIP Amendment

ACTION REQUESTED

Authorization for the Transportation Committee to release the amendments for a 30 day comment period and approve the TIP amendment for the amendment for the Algonquin bypass

There are two projects requiring action by the Policy Committee. The Illinois Tollway is preparing to construct additional through lanes on I-355 from I-88 to 75th Street. This project is in neither the regional long range plan nor the TIP. Also, IDOT is preparing to implement a portion of the Prairie Parkway. This is the segment between IL71 and US34 and would be operational before 2020. While the entire Prairie Parkway is in the long range plan and has been conformed, it appears in the 2030 networks. A full model analysis will be conducted demonstrating conformity for both projects in their respective analysis years. This analysis and amendments will be subjected to a 30 day comment period. The Policy Committee is being asked to authorize the Transportation Committee to release the analysis for the 30 day comment period.

The CMAP Transportation Committee released a TIP amendment for public comment at its November meeting. The Western Algonquin Bypass, included in the TIP since 1999, includes building a new five lane cross section road from IL RT 31 at Huntington Drive to IL RT 31 at Virginia/Klassen Road. From IL RT 31 at Virginia/Klassen Road north to Rakow Road, improvements to IL RT 31 are planned. These improvements include widening the existing two lane cross section to a five-lane cross section. No comments were received.

C. Unified Work Program

To ensure accountability and the best use of planning funds, staff and the UWP Committee are seeking policy guidance from the Policy Committee and the CMAP Board in developing the upcoming FY09 UWP. A brief memo on this subject is attached.

D. Agreements

Staff has determined that a number of agreements need to be revised as a result of the creation of CMAP and the passage of SAFETEA-LU. The Committee will be briefed on these agreements. Affected agencies will be asked to participate in discussions revising the necessary agreements.

E. Self-Certification

ACTION REQUESTED

Approval of Resolution 08-01

On an annual basis, since modified by SAFETEA-LU, the MPO is required to certify that the planning process is addressing major issues facing the region and is being conducted in accordance with federal laws and regulations. Northeastern Illinois' transportation planning process is documented in the Unified Work Program, the Transportation Improvement Program and the Regional Transportation Plan. Additionally, the Transportation Committee has requested a write-up supporting this action. The report is attached.

The Transportation Committee has recommended that the Policy Committee self-certify the transportation planning process for northeastern Illinois.

F. Congestion Reduction Demonstration

As discussed at the October meeting of the Policy Committee, USDOT is continuing to pursue programs aimed at reducing congestion within metropolitan regions. While not a second year of the Urban Partnership Agreement, this Congestion Reduction Demonstration retains many of its elements. Staff has worked with the Illinois Tollway, IDOT, RTA and Pace to submit an application for this program. The committee will be briefed on the content of the application and its status.

G. CN's Proposed Acquisition of the EJ&E

ACTION REQUESTED

Discussion and approval of correspondence to the STB

The Surface Transportation Board (STB) is reviewing the proposed acquisition of the EJ&E through two distinct review processes: the economic and competitive aspects of the proposed transaction and an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process. Attached is a letter to the STB prepared by staff that outlines some of the issues involved with this acquisition by the CN. The CMAP Board will be asked to consider sending this letter at their meeting on January 9, 2008. The Policy Committee will also be asked to consider sending this letter.

H. Federal Energy Bill

Congress recently enacted an Energy Bill that has implications for state and local transportation programs. A number of provisions within this bill appear to be in conflict with existing legislation. Staff is attempting to clarify a number of items and will report on this situation to the Committee.

I. Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair of the CMAP Transportation Committee

The Policy Committee bylaws state that the committee will appoint one of its members or alternates as the Chair and one of its members or alternates as the Vice-Chair of the CMAP Transportation Committee for calendar year 2008.

ACTION REQUESTED

Appoint Chair and Vice-Chair of the Transportation Committee

J. Reauthorization of SAFETEA-LU

A number of national organizations and agencies are preparing positions on the reauthorization of the federal transportation bill, SAFETEA-LU, set to expire in October 2009. These positions could be significantly impacted by the work of the National Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Study Commission. The Commission's report was due to be completed last month. Staff will update the committee on reauthorization efforts.

K. Regional Comprehensive Plan

Staff will provide an update on the development of the plan.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

V. NEXT MEETING

The next regularly scheduled meeting is March 13, 2008.

