



# Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

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## Planning Coordinating Meeting Minutes

July 11, 2007--8:00 a.m.

Offices of the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP)  
Cook County Conference Room  
Suite 800, 233 S. Wacker Drive, Sears Tower, Chicago, Illinois

**Members Present:** Frank Beal-CMAP Board, Adam Gross-Business and Professional People for the Public Interest (BPI), Luann Hamilton-CDOT, Elliott Hartstein-CMAP Board, Al Larson-CMAP Board, Ed Paesel-South Suburban Mayors & Managers Association, Andre Rice-CMAP Board, Rae Rupp Srch-CMAP Board

**Staff Present:** Erin Aleman, Lindsay Banks, Randy Blankenhorn, Bob Dean, Tim Loftus, Joy Schaad, Ty Warner

**Others Present:** Mike Klemens-WCGL, Tam Kutzmark-DMMC, Rebecca Macey-MPC, Les Nunes-IDOT, Andrew Plummer-RTA, Erin Willrett-KKCOM

### 1.0 Call to Order and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 8:03 a.m. by Elliott Hartstein, who served as the acting chair.

### 2.0 Agenda Changes and Announcements

There were no agenda changes.

### 3.0 Approval of Meeting Minutes

The meeting notes from the May 9, 2007 meeting were approved as presented on a motion by Ed Paesel and a second by Rae Rupp Srch.

### 4.0 Leadership Workshops

Ty Warner informed the committee that CMAP was approximately mid-way through the series of leadership workshops being held in the region. He explained that the purpose of these workshops was to introduce CMAP, demonstrate the Centers Toolkit, and explain the Regional Comprehensive Plan process. Mr. Warner referred committee members to an attached report which showed workshop results and characteristics of attendees. He stated that this report also described what workshop attendees identified as the most important and the most difficult features of Centers-based development.

Committee members who had attended the workshops commented that participation was good and that the experience seemed to be valuable for attendees. Elliott Hartstein asked whether Board members could be provided with lists of attendees so that they could identify individuals or organizations to target for the next time leadership workshops are conducted.

Frank Beal stated that he was struck by the consistency of the top features, and asked if staff knew why these had been so frequently selected. Mr. Warner stated that having strong business and employment contributed to the vibrancy of centers, and that mixed-use development was also generally supported in many communities. Adam Gross noted that affordable housing received low emphasis in most areas, even though this is an important issue related to strong business centers. Mr. Warner responded that the Centers Toolkit was an educational piece, and could be used to educate local leaders about these links.

Mr. Hartstein asked if any major groups were missing from the meetings. Mr. Warner responded that municipalities were well-represented, but generally by staff rather than elected officials. Mr. Blankenhorn added that the local planning liaisons assisted in generating attendance by municipal staff.

Luann Hamilton noted that there were multiple centers in the City of Chicago, so the approach might need to be different. Mr. Warner stated that the workshops in Chicago would be tailored to this unique situation.

Ed Paesel noted that receiving input from new participants to the planning process was difficult to begin with, and Mr. Hartstein added that there may have been differences of opinion concerning the identification of centers of various sizes. Rae Rupp Srch stated that most attendees seemed to understand the overall purpose of the workshop, and approached the consensus-building exercises in a realistic way.

## **5.0 Regional Comprehensive Plan**

### **5.1 Overview of the Process**

Bob Dean stated that the development of the Regional Comprehensive Plan was underway, and provided an overview of the planning process. He explained that the planning process would involve six major steps. These included:

- Developing a vision for the region
- Preparing a series of reports to develop an understanding of current conditions
- Identifying and evaluating possible planning strategies to achieve the vision
- Choosing a preferred scenario (or combination of strategies) that best moves the region toward the vision
- Choosing a preferred combination of capital projects that best supports the preferred scenario
- Writing the final plan, which will include recommendations for implementation strategies and capital projects

Mr. Dean also reviewed in more detail the process that will be used for the development of a preferred scenario. He used the Envision Utah project as an example, citing its high level of public involvement and degree of acceptance by local leaders and the business community. He stated that CMAP planned to use a similar process to construct and evaluate future scenarios.

Mr. Dean stated that CMAP would develop indicators from the regional vision, construct alternative future scenarios for the region's development, and then evaluate how well each future scenario performed against the indicators through a quantitative and qualitative evaluation process. He stated that this would lead to the selection of a preferred future scenario, which will identify the combination of actions that will best move the region toward its future vision. Mr. Dean added that the major capital projects that best support the regional vision would be selected after the preferred scenario was identified.

Frank Beal asked why the selection of capital projects had been separated from the selection of a preferred scenario. Randy Blankenhorn responded that the major capital projects were meant to support the preferred scenario, not drive the planning process, so addressing them at the end of the process would ensure that this occurs.

Mr. Beal noted that having strong quantitative abilities was necessary for this process to work, and asked whether this had been considered. Mr. Dean stated that CMAP would use its existing transportation model, develop land use and economic models through work with the University of Illinois, and create a stand-alone financial plan to support the quantitative analysis necessary. Mr. Blankenhorn added that evaluation of various planning strategies was already underway, with literature review and initial research being conducted by a large group of interns.

Adam Gross asked how the planning strategies had been identified, and whether the working committees would have an opportunity to review these. Mr. Dean responded that the strategies were primarily pulled from the 2030 Regional Transportation Plan and the 2040 Regional Framework Plan, and that the initial list of strategies would be taken to the working committees in August or September. Mr. Blankenhorn added that the working committee would be expected to do a considerable amount of work in the analysis of these strategies and other tasks related to the Regional Comprehensive Plan.

Rae Rupp Srch noted that Envision Utah was an award-winning plan and a good example to use. Elliott Hartstein added that the survey was well-designed and appeared to be able to pique the interest of the public. Luann Hamilton noted that presenting information to the public in a simple format was critical to receiving useful feedback.

Ed Paesel stated that it would be important to educate the public about planning issues before asking opinions in a survey. Mr. Hartstein agreed, stating that good decision-making began with good information.

## 5.2 Regional Vision Development

Mr. Dean informed the committee that the development of the regional vision was underway, and would involve a visioning workshop on September 12 at the Illinois Institute of Technology. He stated that this meeting was designed for the Board, CMAP committees, and other partner agencies. Mr. Hartstein observed that the date was the first night of Rosh Hashanah. Mr. Blankenhorn responded that the event was scheduled to be completed at noon.

## 5.3 Snapshot Reports: Sustainability

Jesse Elam provided the committee with a presentation on a proposed regional snapshot on sustainability. He defined sustainability, stating that it included environmental, economic, and equity considerations. He presented the initial findings of the research on sustainability, which included the following:

- CMAP should identify quantitative indicators to measure sustainability, and should use these during the scenario evaluation process to weigh the benefits of different future scenarios.
- The Regional Comprehensive Plan should address climate change and energy use, which are new topics for regional plans to cover.
- CMAP should act as a resource for local governments on climate change, providing information on mitigation and adaptation techniques to address the issue.

Elliott Hartstein stated that the report appeared to focus on environmental concerns, and stated that economic and equity concerns were important to address as well. Mr. Elam stated that global environmental concerns were a major issue in addressing sustainability, but that economic and equity concerns were still critical. Mr. Dean clarified that the report would provide special attention to climate change and energy because these were new topics for the regional plan to address; economics and equity had been covered in the 2030 Regional Transportation Plan and the 2040 Regional Framework Plan, so addressing these concepts was not a new direction for CMAP. Mr. Elam added that the sustainability indicators would measure environmental, economic, and equity aspects of sustainability.

Al Larson noted that the Governor has a task force on climate change, and Mr. Dean stated that CMAP staff had been tracking that group's work. Adam Gross asked what strategies would be most effective to address the climate change issue, and Mr. Elam responded that strategies to address energy use were critical. Mr. Gross asked whether CMAP had the ability to implement change in this area, and noted that it may be beneficial to focus strategies on the issue areas where the agency had direct influence. Ed Paesel responded CMAP could provide guidance to other agencies even on issues beyond its direct control, and Al Larson added that CMAP had numerous partner agencies who could have influence over energy use and other issues related to climate change. Randy Blankenhorn stated that the Regional Comprehensive Plan would address some issues outside its control, and gave the example of education, which is beyond CMAP's

responsibility to address, but which has considerable influence over the agency's other planning areas.

#### **6.0 CMAP Regional Water Supply Study Update**

Tim Loftus informed the committee that the Regional Water Supply Planning Group had identified five goals for planning for water supply:

- Water demand and supply are managed to ensure equitable availability through drought and nondrought conditions alike.
- The quality of ground- and surface water used for drinking supplies is protected.
- Water availability is sufficient to sustain aquatic ecosystems.
- The people of northeastern Illinois develop an improve appreciation for water-resource stewardship.
- Withdrawal from each water source is managed to protect long-term productive yields.

Ed Paesel commented that the issue of cost and affordability had not been addressed. Mr. Loftus responded that beyond these five goals were a number of principles, which address available and affordable water. Mr. Paesel stated that the cost of water could significantly impact development patterns, and that availability is only part of the issue. Mr. Blankenhorn stated that the Regional Water Supply Planning Group had discussed the pricing of water, but had not reached a point where recommendations on this could be made. Mr. Loftus stated that the project would ultimately develop water demand scenarios for 2050, showing the effects of varying distributions of water.

#### **7.0 Other Business**

There was no other business.

#### **8.0 Public Comment**

There were no public comments.

#### **9.0 Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Planning Coordinating Committee is scheduled for September 12, 2007. It is planned to be a very brief meeting before the visioning event.

#### **10.0 Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 a.m. on a motion by Al Larson, second by Rae Rupp Srch.

Respectfully submitted,

**Bob Dean**

Staff Liaison

10-03-07

*Approved as presented by unanimous vote, October 10, 2007.*