

**MEMORANDUM**

To: Planning Coordinating Committee

Date: January 7, 2009

From: Bob Dean, Principal Regional Planner 

Re: GO TO 2040 Status Update

This memo describes upcoming activities in the *GO TO 2040* process, particularly focusing on those where the Planning Coordinating Committee will be asked to provide input or take action.

Scenario evaluation. This will be the primary activity on *GO TO 2040* during spring and summer of this year. Scenario evaluation involves developing and describing several alternative futures for the region and evaluating the strengths and weaknesses of each through a technical and public process. It has several components:

- Scenario development and description. The committee reviewed and concurred with brief descriptions of the alternative scenarios last fall. Staff is now adding more detail to these to create fuller descriptions of these alternative futures and the policies and investments that created them. Committee review of this is expected in March.
- Technical analysis. As part of agenda item 6.0, staff will provide an example of the type of analysis being done to create and evaluate the alternative future scenarios. This work will be completed in May, and the results of the analysis will be reviewed with the committee then.
- MetroQuest software development. The primary public involvement tool that will be used during the scenario evaluation process during summer 2009 is MetroQuest, a software which has been developed for CMAP by a consultant. This software can be used at facilitated meetings or in an online setting, and allows the user to experiment with different types of transportation investments and development patterns and view the outcomes of these decisions. The primary target for the software is the general public. A demonstration of MetroQuest will be scheduled for the March meeting of the committee.

- Other public involvement activities. During spring and summer 2009, CMAP staff will work with several communities to illustrate how the alternative scenarios would affect specific sites or corridors throughout the region. Also, special meetings will be held with groups of stakeholders who are interested in participating in scenario evaluation at a more detailed level than the MetroQuest software is designed for.
- Preferred scenario development. The scenario evaluation process will lead to the development of a preferred scenario that combines the best aspects of each scenario. The preferred scenario will be created based on the results of the technical analysis and public involvement described above. A draft of the preferred scenario will be presented to the committee in September, and a recommendation for endorsement will be requested in November.

Major capital projects. Because *GO TO 2040* will be the formal long-range transportation plan for the region, it will need to identify major capital project priorities. This involves several steps that will require committee input.

- Development of evaluation measures. A series of evaluation measures will be developed to allow the benefits and costs of major capital projects to be captured and compared to each other. A draft of these evaluation measures will be developed during the spring, and these will be presented to the committee in May. A recommendation for endorsement will be requested in June.
- Evaluation of major capital projects. Once the evaluation measures are endorsed, proposed major capital projects will be evaluated using them, within the context of the preferred scenario. This will occur during fall 2009. The committee will be asked to recommend a prioritized list of the major capital projects to include in the plan in January 2010.

Regional Snapshot reports. The committee will continue to be asked to review and approve release of Regional Snapshot reports as these reports are prepared. Each report will be presented to the committee twice, the first time for review of initial findings and the second time for approval to release. The initial findings of several reports have been presented to the committee already; these include reports on the aging of the population, industry clusters, business location decisions, and air quality. Final versions of these reports will be completed within the next six months. In addition, research is underway on freight, residential location decisions, energy, and greenhouse gas emissions, as well as a regional land use inventory; initial findings from these reports will be presented over the next year.

Other activities. It is likely that other issues will arise during the next year that will be brought to the committee for input or action. For example, staff expects to report in May or June on the initial results of research on human and community development topics being undertaken jointly with the Chicago Community Trust. In addition, other outside groups may request the opportunity to speak to the committee, and staff will evaluate these requests as they are received.

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Draft committee schedule. A proposed meeting schedule for 2009 is below. All of these meetings will occur at 8:00 a.m. in the CMAP offices and will be immediately followed by the CMAP Board meeting.

January 14, 2009

March 11, 2009

May 13, 2009

June 10, 2009 (please note off-cycle meeting date)

September 9, 2009

November 18, 2009

ACTION REQUESTED: Discussion.

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