



Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

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Planning Coordinating Meeting Minutes

September 8, 2010--8:00 a.m.

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

Members Present: Elliott Hartstein, Chair-CMAP Board, Frank Beal-CMAP Board, Bill Browne-Economic and Community Development, Roger Claar-CMAP Board, Sheri Cohen-Human Services, Jack Darin-Environment and Natural Resources, Luann Hamilton-Transportation, Al Larson-CMAP Board, Ed Paesel-Land Use, Rick Reinbold-CMAP Board, Rae Rupp Srch-CMAP Board and Joanna Trotter-Housing

Staff Present: Erin Aleman, Brett Baden, Randy Blankenhorn, Ylda Capriccioso, Bob Dean, Jesse Elam, Don Kopec, Jill Leary, Andrew Williams-Clark

Others Present: Alan Bennett-CMAP Board, Bruce Christensen-Lake County, David Kralik-Metra, Tam Kutzmark-DMMC, Marilyn Michelini-CMAP Board, Hugh O'Hara-WCGL, Mark Pitstick-RTA, Leanne Redden-RTA, Chris Staron-NWMC, Mike Sullivan-KKCOM, and Jan Ward-KKCOM

1.0 Call to Order and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 8:05 a.m. by Elliott Hartstein.

2.0 Agenda Changes and Announcements

There were no agenda changes.

3.0 Approval of Minutes

A motion by Rae Rupp Srch was seconded by Sheri Cohen to approve the minutes of May 12, 2010 as presented.

4.0 Public Comments on GO TO 2040 and Recommended Changes

Bob Dean described the results of the summer 2010 public engagement, which sought comments on the draft plan. He stated that comments had been received from across the seven counties on nearly every topic covered in the plan. Mr. Dean noted that a summary

of comments received and changes made to the plan in response to these comments had been mailed to committee members the previous week and were available online as well. He stated that several notable changes had been made to the plan, and described these for committee discussion.

Mr. Dean stated that the treatment of arts and culture in the draft plan was improved by adding language in the Challenges and Opportunities chapter as well as some additional sections. Elliott Hartstein stated that the arts were important to make the region an attractive place to live. Al Larson added that the arts were often overlooked in economic development, but there were several good examples of how they contributed to local economies. Rae Rupp Srch noted that it was appropriate to describe the arts in several sections, as the plan had done. Mr. Dean stated that some additional discussion of the role of arts in local economic development would be added.

Mr. Dean described recommended changes to the plan's treatment of major capital projects, including adding descriptions and a map of the unconstrained projects, emphasizing that these projects do provide benefit and should be further developed, and further discussing innovative financing methods. Ed Paesel asked how Metra's concerns about the level of capital funding and the difficulty of pursuing unconstrained transit projects would be addressed. Mr. Dean responded that the level of capital funding had been examined by the Transportation Committee and other subcommittees and was judged to be reasonable. He also stated that the plan recommended changes in FTA's rules concerning the use of federal funding for engineering of transit projects to make it easier to continue to develop beneficial but unconstrained transit projects. Luann Hamilton emphasized that the fiscally constrained projects should be pursued aggressively. Mr. Larson stated that many unconstrained projects also had merit, and funding should be found for them. Mr. Dean concluded that the plan now discussed the importance of finding additional funding for the unconstrained projects.

Mr. Dean stated that adjustments had also been made to the plan's treatment of demographics, water and energy, local food, bicycling, workforce boards, and the governance of the tax policy task force. He also noted that one implementation action in the water and energy section concerning support for water conservation through local codes would be changed to make it less prescriptive. The committee indicated agreement with these adjustments.

Sheri Cohen asked for additional language to be added to the plan concerning access to health care and the overall importance of a healthy population. Mr. Dean stated that he would work with her to add discussion of this in appropriate places within the plan.

Mr. Hartstein asked for comment from the audience concerning this item. Alan Bennett, CMAP Board member, stated that he had two major concerns. The first involved the water and energy conservation chapter; Mr. Bennett stated that additional topics needed to be treated in this chapter, including flooding in older urban areas, combined sewer

overflows, disinfection of the Chicago River, and the Asian carp problem. He stated that more discussion of these was needed in the plan, and suggested creating a task force to address the issues of flooding and combined sewer systems. Mr. Dean responded that more discussion concerning these issues had been added to the plan already, but that staff would work with Mr. Bennett to see if further improvements could be made. He also stated that the Environment and Natural Resources committee could be an appropriate place for discussions of flooding to take place, and Jack Darin (the committee's representative) agreed.

Mr. Bennett also stated that north-south travel in western Cook County was a significant problem, and that a major capital project to facilitate it was necessary. He recommended that the Mid-City Transitway be added to the fiscally constrained major capital project list to address this issue. Mr. Dean responded that a number of beneficial projects were unconstrained due to financial issues, and that this project should continue to be developed, but did not need to be a fiscally constrained project for this to occur.

5.0 Other Business

There was no other business.

6.0 Public Comment

There was no public comment.

7.0 Next Meeting

The next meeting of the committee was scheduled for September 29, 2010.

12.0 Adjournment

At approximately 9:05 a.m., a motion to adjourn by Rae Rupp Srch was seconded by Al Larson.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved as presented, by unanimous vote, September 29, 2010.