



Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

Agenda Item No. 7.0

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MEMORANDUM

To: CMAP Board
From: CMAP Staff
Date: December 1, 2010
Re: Legislative Update

The Illinois General Assembly returned to Springfield in mid-November to consider legislation that had been vetoed by Governor Quinn. In total, the Governor vetoed two bills, made 17 amendatory vetoes, and 1 line item veto. None of those bills were of direct interest to CMAP.

Additionally, the General Assembly addressed other issues during the veto session, including direct election of RTA, CTA, Pace and Metra boards, an RTA inspector general, green energy, and gaming expansion. Both chambers will return to Springfield on November 29-30, December 1, and for a few days in early January. Veto session bills of interest included:

Transportation

Southeast Commuter Rail District [HB 1644](#) – Riley (D-Olympia Fields) – The House passed this bill to create a Southeast Commuter Rail District to include Crete, Steger, South Chicago Heights, Chicago Heights, Glenwood, Thornton, South Holland, Dolton, Calumet City, Lansing and Lynwood. STATUS: Referred to Senate Assignments.

Illiana Expressway [HB 6895](#) – Arroyo (D-Chicago) – The House Referred to the Rules Committee this bill to require female/minority participation in any contracts connected to the Illiana Expressway project. STATUS: Referred to House Rules.

Metra Board [HB 6915](#) – Franks (D-Woodstock) – The House referred to the Rules Committee this bill to require a non-partisan election of a nine-member Metra board starting next year. It also eliminates compensation and pension and group insurance benefits for board members. STATUS: Referred to House Rules.

RTA Board [HB 6946](#) – Franks (D-Woodstock) – The House referred to the Rules Committee this bill to require a non-partisan election of a nine-member RTA board starting next year. It also eliminates compensation and pension and group insurance benefits for board members. STATUS: Referred to House Rules.

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CTA Board [HB 6947](#) – Franks (D-Woodstock) – The House referred to the Rules Committee this bill to require a non-partisan election of a nine-member CTA board starting next year. It also eliminates compensation and pension and group insurance benefits for board members. STATUS: Referred to House Rules.

Suburban Bus Board [HB 6950](#) – Franks (D-Woodstock) – The House referred to the Rules Committee this bill to require a non-partisan election of a nine-member Suburban Bus board starting next year. It also eliminates compensation and pension and group insurance benefits for board members. STATUS: Referred to House Rules.

Tollway Board [HB 6953](#) – Franks (D-Woodstock) – The House referred to the Rules Committee this bill to require the chairman and members of the Tollway board to serve without compensation and pension and group insurance benefits. STATUS: Referred to House Rules.

High-speed Rail [SB 2571](#) – Sandoval (D-Chicago) *House Sponsor: Burke (D-Chicago)* – The Senate resurrected and passed this bill from the spring session calling for a 15-member commission to make recommendations on the best way to implement high-speed rail. STATUS: House 3rd Reading - Short Debate 11/29/2010.

Seniors Ride Free Program [SB 3778](#) – Trotter (D-Chicago) *House Sponsor: Flynn-Currie (D-Chicago)* The House introduced an amendment that limits free bus and train rides to seniors who make less than \$27,600 a year. All seniors would still be eligible for federally mandated half price for rides. STATUS: House 3rd Reading 11/29/2010.

Metra Board [SB 3943](#) – Link (D-Waukegan) – The Senate assigned to the Transportation Committee this bill calling for the termination of all current members of the Metra board. STATUS: Assigned to Transportation 11/16/2010.

Metra Inspector General [SB 3963](#) – Garrett (D-Lake Forest) – The Senate referred to the Assignments Committee this bill to create a Commuter Rail Inspector General. STATUS: Referred to Senate Assignments 11/04/2010.

RTA Inspector General [SB 3965](#) – Garrett (D-Lake Forest) *House Sponsor: Franks (D-Woodstock)* – The Senate passed this bill calling for the Executive Inspector General in the Governor's office to oversee all board members, officers and employees of the RTA and the three service boards. STATUS: Passed Senate; Assigned to House Mass Transit 11/18/2010.

Economic Development

Business Micro-loans [HB 5420](#) – Mell (D-Chicago) *Senate Sponsor: Cullerton (D-Chicago)* – The Senate referred to the Executive Committee this House bill creating a micro-loan program for businesses through the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity. STATUS: Referred to Senate Executive 11/18/2010.

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Enterprise Zones [HB 6900](#) – Flider (D-Mt. Zion) – The House referred to the Rules Committee this bill to allow business enterprise zones to be extended for an additional 20 years. STATUS: Referred to House Rules 11/10/2010.

Jobs Tax Credit [HB 6914](#) – Mitchell (R-Forsyth) – The House referred to the Rules Committee this bill to award a tax credit of up to 25 percent to manufacturers who create jobs. STATUS: Referred to House Rules 11/10/2010.

Jobs Tax Credit [SB 3950](#) – Mulroe (D-Chicago) – The Senate referred to the Assignments Committee this bill to increase to 75 the number of full-time employees a small business can have when applying for the Small Business Job Creation Tax Credit. Also raises the cap on the credit from \$2,500 to \$3,000 for each new employee hired. STATUS: Referred to Senate Assignments 11/04/2010.

Environment

Well Testing [HB 6886](#) – Gordon (D-Coal City) – The House referred to the Rules Committee this bill to require the EPA to annually test all private wells within ½ mile of a sanitary landfill if sampling of any of them within a two-year period reveals high levels of harmful chemicals. . STATUS: Referred to House Rules 11/10/2010.

Windfarm Regulation [SB 597](#)-- Sullivan (D-Rushville) – The Senate resurrected this bill from the spring allowing municipalities to regulate wind farms within 1.5 miles of the corporate boundary. STATUS: Senate 3rd Reading 11/17/2010.

Gaming

Chicago Casino [SB 3970](#) – Link (D-Waukegan) – The Senate referred to the Gaming Committee this bill to allow construction of a casino in Chicago. STATUS: Held in Senate Gaming 11/16/2010.

Racetrack Gaming [SB3971](#) – Radogno (R-Lemont) – The Senate referred to the Assignments Committee this bill to allow electronic gaming at race tracks. Would also pre-empt home rule with regard to the regulation and licensing of electronic gaming and gaming devices. Referred to Senate Assignments 11/16/2010.

There are three days left this week in the veto session. Also, the General Assembly plans to return for a lame-duck session in January, where it may consider an income tax hike, expansion of gambling and any other legislation that wasn't completed during the veto session. CMAP will track and monitor all relevant legislation.

Spring Session:

CMAP is evaluating the recommendations in GO TO 2040 to determine a legislative strategy for the spring 2011 and beyond. Some of these initiatives include, but are not limited to the

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Comprehensive Regional Planning fund, motor fuel tax, public-private partnerships, transportation cost and investment efficiencies, water and energy conservation, and adequate funding for natural resources agencies. Many of our partner organizations have carry-over initiatives that are aligned to the recommendations and CMAP will continue to support these.

ACTION REQUESTED: Discussion

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