



Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

Agenda Item No. 9.0

233 South Wacker Drive
Suite 800
Chicago, Illinois 60606

312 454 0400
www.cmap.illinois.gov

MEMORANDUM

To: CMAP Board

From: Matt Maloney, Deputy Chief of Staff

Date: December 1, 2010

Re: Tax Policy Task Force

GO TO 2040 calls for the development of specific state and local tax policy recommendations to take further shape through the creation of a **Regional Tax Policy Task Force**. Membership on this new group will include representation from state and local government, business, academia, and local civic organizations. As GO TO 2040 states: "The task force will exist to advise the Board and will have no statutory or independent authority. The CMAP Board will have ultimate discretion in terms of recruiting, forming, and managing this task force. The CMAP Board will also ensure that the group's research and recommendations reflect the varied challenges faced by local governments, residents, and businesses across the region. The group should conclude its work within 18 months of formation".

Broadly speaking, the task force will be charged with addressing issues central to state and local fiscal policy, viewed through the lens of the regional economy, sustainability, equity, and the connections between tax policies and development decisions. Recommendations might propose reforms to state law and/or suggest regional or subregional actions for improving the efficiency, equity, and transparency of the tax system. GO TO 2040 fully recognizes that state and local tax policy is a complex topic that requires prudence, since certain policy changes can lead to shifting burdens across residents, businesses, and governments.

Lastly, GO TO 2040 recommends that the Board work to ensure that the Task Force's membership is balanced, including appropriate representation by geography, as well as representatives who understand the perspectives of both home-rule and non-home-rule governments. Its composition is recommended to be as follows, with specific membership subject to approval by the CMAP Board:

- Four municipal representatives, including one from the City of Chicago, one from the Cook County suburbs, and two from the collar counties
- Two county representatives, including one from Cook County
- Two representatives from the State of Illinois

- Two public finance policy experts from academia who have conducted scholarly research on taxation issues in northeastern Illinois
- Two members from the business community to represent the private sector
- Two members from local civic organizations well-equipped to research and discuss matters of state and local taxation

Recommended Process for Selecting Members

The recommendation is for staff to propose task force members for the approval of the full Board at the **February** meeting. Staff suggests the following process for proposing nominees:

- **Four municipal representatives (one from the City of Chicago, one from the Cook county suburbs and two from the collar counties).** For the City of Chicago nominee, staff will request a recommendation from the Mayor's office. For the three suburban municipal nominees, staff will request recommendations from the executive board of the Metropolitan Mayor's Caucus. The nominees should currently serve on municipal staff and have expertise in taxation issues.
- **Two county representatives (one from Cook, one from collar counties).** For the Cook County nominee, staff will request a recommendation from the Cook County president's office. For the collar county nominee, Staff will request a recommendation from the Council of County Board Chairs, which is composed of each of the county board chairpersons from Cook, DuPage, Kane, Kendall, Lake, McHenry and Will. The nominees should currently serve on county staff and have expertise in taxation issues.
- **Two state representatives.** Staff will request one recommendation from the Governor's Office of Management and Budget. Staff will request the other recommendation from the Commission of Government Forecasting and Accountability (COGFA), which reports to the General Assembly on economic trends related to long-range planning and budgeting. The nominees should currently be employed by the State of Illinois and have expertise in taxation issues.
- **Two business representatives.** Staff will propose two nominees for the Board's consideration. Each representative should be currently employed at a prominent regional firm and have expertise in taxation issues. One of the two nominees should work for a large national retailer with multiple locations in the region. The other nominee could be a current employee in any number of other potential non-retail sectors.
- **Two academic representatives.** Staff will propose the two nominees for the Board's consideration. The representatives should currently serve on the faculty of a local college or university and should have recently published research on public finance issues in northeastern Illinois.

December 1, 2010

Page 3

- **Two civic organization representatives.** Staff will propose the two nominees for the Board's consideration. The representatives should be employed or serve on the board of civic organizations operating within northeastern Illinois. The nominees should have expertise in the regional economy, including a history of researching the issues of public finance and land use.

At the February meeting, staff will propose the 14 task force nominees for the Board's consideration and approval. Information provided will include relevant biographical information for each nominee.

ACTION REQUESTED: Discussion

###