



MEMORANDUM

To: CMAP Board

Date: September 3, 2008

From: Bob Dean, Principal Regional Planner 

Re: Update on *GO TO 2040* Progress

Under the guidance of the Planning Coordinating Committee, progress continues to be made on the *GO TO 2040* plan. In the interest of keeping the Board aware of the plan's progress, this memo provides an update on its current status, upcoming activities, and scheduled Board actions.

Ongoing and upcoming activities

Indicators development. Since March 2008, CMAP's working committees, outside consultants, and other stakeholder groups have contributed to the development of regional indicators. The Chicago Community Trust has also contributed staff expertise and financial support to this project. Three sets of indicators will be developed, each with a different purpose:

- An extensive set of indicators, which will provide a "warehouse" of data that any organization or resident can use to create charts, maps, or other visualizations. At the Board meeting, staff will provide examples of what these visualizations could look like. Recently, several online tools have been developed that allow anyone to create data visualizations; view <http://services.alphaworks.ibm.com/manyeyes/home> for an example. The CMAP data will be able to be viewed using these tools.
- Approximately 150-180 "tracking" indicators, which will track the progress of the *GO TO 2040* plan in accomplishing its goals after it is adopted.
- Approximately 10-15 "evaluation" indicators, which will evaluate how well alternative recommendations move us toward the Regional Vision.

The Board is expected to be asked to endorse recommended "tracking" indicators at its November 2008 meeting. The Board will be asked regularly for guidance on other aspects of the indicators project.

Scenario evaluation. The construction and evaluation of alternative scenarios is a central part of the *GO TO 2040* process. Scenarios are combinations of actions that represent alternative paths that the region could take to achieve its desired future. Scenario evaluation is made up of a number of steps, described below:

- Identification and measurement of scenarios. Through feedback from working committees and review of other national scenario projects, four alternative future scenarios have been constructed and will be discussed with the Planning Coordinating Committee on September 10, 2008. Through spring 2009, these scenarios will be further refined and their effect on the “evaluation” indicators described above will be calculated.
- Development of public engagement software. CMAP is contracting with Envision Sustainability Tools to develop software to be used during scenario evaluation public involvement. This work is underway and will continue until spring 2009.
- Public engagement activities. In partnership with the Burnham Centennial Committee, the major public involvement activities for scenario evaluation will occur during summer 2009. This will involve a major effort by CMAP and its partner agencies to gather feedback on the alternative scenarios, and will involve workshops and online tools. Public engagement work is expected to actually begin in spring 2009, with locally-oriented design workshops that will provide illustrations of the effect of the alternative scenarios on various communities.
- Development of public finance plans. The costs and revenues that will result from each alternative scenario will be estimated to ensure that financial realities are considered in the process.
- Selection of a preferred scenario. Ultimately, the scenario evaluation process will result in a preferred scenario that combines the most desirable aspects of the four alternatives. This scenario will include the policies, strategies, and investments that are judged to be most effective, based on the evaluation indicators, at moving the region toward the Regional Vision.

The Board is expected to be asked to endorse the preferred scenario in late fall 2009. The results of the initial evaluation and detailed public engagement plans are expected to be presented to the Board in late spring 2009, but this will not require formal action.

Major capital projects. As the federally-required Regional Transportation Plan for the metropolitan area, the *GO TO 2040* plan will include a fiscally constrained list of major capital projects that the region will undertake by 2040. The specific process for this is still being developed. Two different Board actions are expected: the endorsement of evaluation measures to be used to evaluate the projects, in summer 2009; and the endorsement of the recommended list of fiscally constrained capital projects, in early 2010.

Final plan adoption. By state and federal law, the *GO TO 2040* plan must be adopted by fall 2010. An initial draft of the plan is expected to be complete by spring 2010. The Board is expected to be requested to release the plan for formal public comment at this point, and will also be asked to formally adopt the *GO TO 2040* plan in fall 2010.

Progress to date

As noted above, progress has been made on indicators development and scenario construction. In addition, there are several other pieces of the *GO TO 2040* plan on which substantial progress has been made, including the following:

Regional Vision. This was endorsed by the Board and the MPO Policy Committee in June 2008. This endorsement followed a year-long process to involve the working committees, other stakeholders, and the general public in vision development. The initial estimate for endorsement was April 2008, but this was delayed two months to allow additional public involvement.

Regional Snapshot reports. The Regional Snapshot reports are intended to be released quarterly, and the first one was completed in fall 2007. To date, two reports have been completed and released, on the topics of sustainability and infill. Three reports, on the topics of jobs-housing balance, aging and the needs of older adults, and the region's Latino population, are being finalized and are expected to be complete by the end of 2008.

Strategy papers. A series of reports on potential plan recommendations have also been underway, with work beginning last summer. Nearly 50 subjects were identified as being appropriate subjects for these reports. To date, working drafts of 10 of these papers have been prepared and posted to CMAP's website for comments, and approximately 10 more papers are expected to be posted by the end of October. All other papers are either underway or will be addressed through consultant contracts for which the selection process is underway.

Overall the *GO TO 2040* plan is progressing as intended. While some elements have experienced delays of one or two months, staff assumed some delays when developing the schedule, and we are within these ranges. Staff will continue to update the Board regularly concerning plan progress and upcoming activities.

ACTION REQUESTED: Information.

###