



Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

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Programming Coordinating Committee Minutes

October 10, 2007

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

Members Present: Rita Athas-Chair, Mark Avery, Jack Darin-Vice Chair, Beth Dever, Jack Groner, Marilyn Michelini, Raul Raymundo, Dan Shea, Holly Smith

Absent: Anthony Calderone, John Greuling, Calvin Jordon, Nigel Telman, Steve Schlickman

1.0 Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:10 a.m.

2.0 Agenda Changes and Announcements

There were no agenda changes or announcements.

3.0 Approval of Meeting Minutes – September 12, 2007

Mr. Shea moved that the meeting minutes of September 12, 2007 be approved. The motion was seconded by Mayor Michelini. All in favor, the motion carried.

4.0 Metra New Starts, Locally Preferred Alternatives

Ms. Ciavarella made a presentation regarding the alternatives analyses (AA) for two of Metra's New Starts projects and the resulting locally preferred alternatives (LPAs). The first New Start project discussed was improvements to the Union Pacific northwest line. The recommended LPA is commuter rail with relocation of rail yards, adding crossovers and signal upgrades. Additionally there will be three new stations in McHenry County.

Ms. Ciavarella continued by describing the second New Start project for improvements to the Union Pacific west line. The recommended LPA is commuter rail with upgraded signals, adding crossovers, relocation of the A2 interlocker and installing a third track.

Discussion ensued regarding the New Starts projects inclusion in the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). The group also discussed the AA process. Ms. Athas expressed concern about public perception regarding Alternatives Analyses and whether it would appear that since Metra is doing the analyses, the preferred alternative will always be Metra. Perhaps an agency that is not an implementing agency should lead future Alternative Analyses to prevent the appearance of a conflict of interest. Ms. Ciavarella stated that Metra works with all regional agencies to implement their plans and the projects are included in the RTP. Metra works closely with other agencies, i.e. Pace, in completing the AA. Mr. Cuculich asked if the potential merger of the CN railroad and the EJ&E railroad will have any affect on the STAR line. Mr. Groner responded that Metra is reaching out to the CN to discuss the issue.

Mr. Shea made a motion to recommend the CMAP Board endorsement of the LPAs. Mr. Avery seconded the motion. All in favor, the motion carried.

5.0 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment

Ms. Ostdick stated that the Illinois Tollway is requesting a TIP amendment for the I-355 extension to show a six lane cross section rather than four. The Tollway determined the extension will reach capacity shortly after opening and is requesting to add one lane in each direction while contractors are on site and traffic is not using the road. The amendment was released to the public for a 30 day comment period. No comments were received. Mr. Darin asked whether all environmental clearances were received and if the public had a chance to comment regarding the environmental analyses that were completed. Ms. Redden (formerly of the Tollway staff) stated that when the project was initially studied, it was studied for six lanes and the public was given the chance to comment. All environmental clearances were approved by the appropriate agencies. Ms. Athas questioned whether the six lane extension was included in the RTP. Ms. Ostdick responded that it is.

Mr. Groner made a motion recommending CMAP Board approval of the TIP amendment. Mr. Avery seconded the motion. All in favor, the motion carried.

6.0 Developments of Regional Importance (DRI)

Mr. Kopec discussed SB 1201 and the concept of Developments of Regional Importance (DRI). Mr. Kopec distributed a list of possible agencies that would be represented on a DRI sub-group. Many members showed concern regarding the number of members of the sub-group and suggested a small group of Programming Coordinating Committee members work to develop various scenarios for the definition of DRI and bring their scenarios to a larger group of stakeholders mentioned in the previously distributed list. Mr. Avery, Mr. Darin, and Mr. Cuculich volunteered to work on the smaller sub-set of the Programming Coordinating Committee to define DRI. Mr. Kopec requested that he be given a list of members for the smaller sub-set and the larger DRI sub-committee by the end of the week.

7.0 Facility Planning Areas

Mr. Kopec stated that the inaugural wastewater committee is meeting after the CMAP board meeting. He stated that the Governor line item vetoed the wastewater committee however the Senate had overridden the veto and it is anticipated that the House will override the veto sometime within the week.

8.0 Work of the Programming Coordinating Committee

Mr. Kopec briefly reviewed the status of the committee structure. He stated that the idea of the committee structure is for working committees to bring issues to the coordinating committees and the coordinating committees will bring issues to the CMAP board. Mr. Avery would like to empower CMAP staff to bring issues to the working committees Chairman and Vice-chairman.

9.0 Other Business

There was no other business brought before the committee.

10.0 Public Comment

There was no public comment.

11.0 Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for November 14, 2007.

12.0 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 am on a motion by Mr. Darin, seconded by Mr. Avery.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Berry

Staff Liaison

hao/pb
10-17-07

Approved with minor correction, November 28, 2007.