



MEMORANDUM

To: Regional Coordinating Committee

From: Matt Maloney, Deputy Chief of Staff

Date: March 2, 2011

Re: Regional Coordinating Committee--Responsibilities and Meeting Schedule

The Regional Coordinating Committee was created by the CMAP Board at its January 2011 meeting as part of a committee reorganization meant to realign the agency's committees to focus on the implementation of GO TO 2040. Previously, the agency had two coordinating committees: the Planning Coordinating Committee, which was responsible for longer-term planning, including overseeing the completion of GO TO 2040; and the Programming Coordinating Committee, which was responsible for shorter-term activities. In January, these two committees were disbanded and have been replaced by the Local Coordinating Committee and Regional Coordinating Committee.

Both committees will be responsible for implementing the recommendations of GO TO 2040. As implied by their names, the division of responsibilities between the coordinating committees relates to level of geography. Implementation actions that take place at the local level, including technical assistance to communities and overall coordination with local governments, will be the responsibility of the Local Coordinating Committee. Implementation actions which are larger in geographic scale, such as state or federal legislative activity or prioritization of regional infrastructure investments, will be the responsibility of the Regional Coordinating Committee.

The primary activities expected of the Regional Coordinating Committee include:

- Discussion and direction to CMAP regarding the implementation of various state and federal policy issues included as major recommendations in GO TO 2040. Some major examples highlighted in the plan include the following (this is not an exhaustive list):
 - Pursuing cost and investment efficiencies in transportation, including ending the "55-45" split for Illinois transportation dollars;
 - Fostering collaboration around the region's clusters of economic specialization, and working toward obtaining relevant federal or state funding to further innovation;

- Coordination of state open space investment to create a regional green infrastructure network
- Discussion and direction to CMAP regarding the evaluation and implementation of major infrastructure projects. Some major examples highlighted in the plan include the following:
 - Development of transparent evaluation criteria for the selection of projects, particularly ones adding capacity;
 - Improving decision-making models used for evaluating transportation projects;
 - Implementation of GO TO 2040's fiscally constrained major capital projects
- Recommendation of transportation programming actions to the CMAP Board for Approval. Some examples include the following:
 - Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) changes requiring a "conformity analysis", which is an evaluation of the impact of transportation projects on air quality. The TIP is a short-range snapshot of all transportation projects that anticipate federal funding along with any other "regionally significant" projects;
 - The Unified Work Program (UWP), federal transportation planning funds allocated to the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) and other agencies each year to enhance transportation in northeastern Illinois;
 - Congestion, Mitigation, and Air Quality Program (CMAQ), a federally-funded program of surface transportation improvements designed to improve air quality and mitigate congestion

Meeting schedule

The Regional Coordinating Committee is expected to meet five more times during 2011. If scheduled meetings are judged to be unnecessary due to lack of business they will be cancelled. Meetings are scheduled for the following dates, each at 8:00 a.m., immediately preceding a CMAP Board meeting:

- May 11
- July 13
- September 14
- October 12
- December 14

ACTION REQUESTED: Discussion

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