



Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

233 South Wacker Drive
Suite 800, Sears Tower
Chicago, IL 60606

312-454-0400 (voice)
312-454-0411 (fax)
www.chicagoareaplanning.org

Unified Work Program Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday November 3, 2009

10:00 AM

Offices of the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
DuPage County Room
233 S. Wacker Drive, Suite 800, Sears Tower
Chicago, IL 60606

Committee Members Present:

*Alternate Member

Jim Stack (IDOT), Matt Maloney (CMAP), Mark Pitstick (RTA)*, David Seglin (City of Chicago), Tom Rickert (Kane County), Beth McCluskey (Metra), David Simmons (CTA), Sid Weseman (RTA), Tom Radak (Pace)*, Leon Rockingham (Regional Council of Mayors), David Werner (FTA)

Staff Present:

Dolores Dowdle, Bob Dean, Janet Bright, Joey Silberhorn

Others Present:

Chalen Daigle (McHenry County), Kama Dobbs (DMMC), Tammy Wierciak (WCMC)

1.0 Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 AM by Jim Stack.

2.0 Agenda Changes and Announcements

There were no changes or announcements.

3.0 Approval of the Minutes-May 19, 2009 and June 23, 2009

The May 19th and June 23rd minutes were unanimously approved by the Committee.

4.0 FY 2011 UWP Development Process and Key Dates

The Committee considered the upcoming UWP development process calendar. The March 30th meeting will be moved to April 6th, given a conflict with the City of Chicago. New core/competitive forms will be developed and should be available by next meeting.

5.0 *GO TO 2040* Preferred Scenario

Bob Dean from CMAP discussed the policy direction of the *GO TO 2040* preferred scenario for the Committee. The purpose of this item was to discuss key policy directions and how that can be used to prioritize project proposals for the FY 2011 UWP process. The Committee discussed one priority- “unsiloing” federal and state programs- at some length, and the committee asked for more detail from CMAP staff regarding what this potential recommendation actually means. Staff explained that there is little funding available from the federal or state level for comprehensive planning, or the implementation of comprehensive planning. For example, in many cases, certain redevelopment projects such as TODs require many different funding streams from a variety of federal and state agencies.

This recommendation is chiefly about streamlining certain funding streams to make the implementation of comprehensive planning activities more feasible.

Staff also discussed the recent USDOT/EPA/HUD Partnership for Sustainable Communities as an example of federal agencies unsiloing typical agency roles and coming together to solve problems requiring comprehensive solutions. Mr. Donovan cautioned that this partnership is an “evolving” process, and is not currently connected with any particular funding streams for planning dollars, and that UWP funds are still funds to be used for the purposes of transportation planning. Mr. Seglin asked what CMAP’s potential role would be in the joint DOT/HUD/EPA partnership, and whether CMAP might seek funding if it becomes available. Mr. Seglin suggested that it would be interesting to learn more about this potential legislation. Mr. Maloney agreed to provide the Committee with an update on this at a future meeting.

Mr. Rickert asked about transportation finance recommendations in the plan, and whether the plan was going to be recommending new funding streams like a VMT (vehicle miles traveled) tax. Mr. Maloney replied that staff is analyzing these issues, but no particular recommendation has been readied. Mr. Maloney did add that the financial plan for transportation is indicating a significant shortfall in available funds to maintain, enhance, and expand the system. Given this reality, Mr. Maloney suggested that research on financing options for transportation might be considered a

high priority for FY 11 UWP work. Mr. Maloney said the Committee would continue to discuss these matters at their next meeting.

6.0 Rescissions and Unexpended Balances

IDOT and FWHA discussed recent federal rescissions and the impact upon UWP dollars in Illinois and the region. Overall, \$300m is being rescinded in the State of Illinois, across all facets of transportation projects. Of this amount, \$12.8 million is being rescinded from planning dollars. However, UWP dollars will not face any “immediate impact”, given a \$14 million unobligated balance held by IDOT. This should allow FY10 and FY11 projects to proceed as scheduled. The balance has been accruing for several decades and once this has run out, it will not be replaced. Mr. Donovan suggested that there is “no more wiggle room” in terms of planning dollars and that the concept of rescissions is “not going away”.

7.0 Progress and Expenditure Reports – 1st Quarter FY 2010

As is customary, Committee members submitted quarterly progress and expenditure reports for the 1st Quarter of FY 2010. Mr. Maloney thanked the committee for their timely submission of these reports and asked about some specific projects that appear to be slow in moving forward. Metra’s Weekend Station/Train Boarding and Alighting Triple Counts project (FY 08) is reviewing final offers this week. Pace is currently implementing a new grant process and has been experiencing delays on invoices. RTA noted a correction for the Regional Travel Markets and System Assessment Project due to a late invoice and will submit updated numbers to Mr. Maloney. The City of Chicago reported that the Pedestrian Plan Phase II has chosen a consultant. Mr. Maloney asked if it would be possible to break up the City’s Preliminary Planning work into specific projects so that the committee can better understand what is involved with this work. The City replied that they could have staff come in and report on what is included, at either the next meeting or the one after. CTA’s Optimize Customer Access to Real Time Info Project is moving forward with proposals going out and aiming to complete project by June 2010.

Mr. Pitstick asked about CMAP’s FY08 numbers, which show some large variances in expenditure to budgeted amounts. Mr. Maloney explained this was the year that CATS and NIPC were first consolidated, and that there were some internal issues with staff billing to certain project numbers. Mr. Maloney said that these issues were brought to the committee’s attention in the past and that these internal issues have been rectified. Mr. Maloney said that overall, it makes sense to bring projects back to the Committee if they appear to be headed over 10% over or under expended. In these cases, recipient agencies can get Committee approval for shifting small amounts of dollars among different projects.

8.0 Public Comment

There was no public comment.

9.0 Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on December 1, 2009.

10.0 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matt Maloney".

Matt Maloney
CMAP