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

Economic and Community Development Committee Minutes
February 24– 9:00am
DuPage County Conference Room

Members Present: Chris Aiston, Tracey Bosman, Consuella Brown, Bill Browne, Lori Clark, JoAnn Eckmann, Thomas Gary, Robert Gleeson, John Greuling, Rand Haas, Robin Kelly, Cindy McSherry, Charles Perkins, Angie Powell, John Schneider, David Young

Members Absent: Grant Davis, Judith Kossy, Sean McCarthy, Harry Pestine, Mike Scholefield, Ed Sitar,

Staff Present: Annie Byrne, Bob Dean, Bola Delano, Brian Rademacher, Paul Reise,

Others Present: Kristen Andersen, Paul Heltne, Leslie Page-Piper

1.0 Call to Order
The meeting was called to order at 9:00am.

2.0 Welcome and Introductions
All attendees introduced themselves.

3.0 Approval of the Minutes
Motion to approve the minutes was made by Tracey Bosman and seconded by Dr. Robert Gleeson.

4.0 Agenda Changes and Announcements
Discussion on the draft version of DRI's will be tabled and discussed at the March meeting. Item 6.2 to discuss the white paper on economic development incentives was added to the agenda.

5.0 Staff Report
A CMAP webinar on "Money, People and Houses: Getting the Best Information for the Best Price" will be held on February 25th and 27th, and it is designed to analyze newly released data available through the Census' American Community Survey. Members were encouraged to sign up.

Employment projections data made available through Regional Economics Application Laboratory (REAL) will be made available for their review in the coming weeks.

6.0 *GOTO 2040* Update

6.1 A presentation was given on the cluster analysis snapshot report. The presentation reviewed the methodology used in the report, highlighted clusters that demonstrate a competitive advantage some of which included Business and Professional Services, Transportation and Logistics as well as highlighted growing clusters such Biomedical/Biotechnical Clusters, Leisure and Accommodation. The presentation outlined next steps in the cluster development process.

A discussion with questions followed the presentation some of which included what level of industry detail was involved in the cluster definitions, whether the report will use current employment levels considering the economic downturn this year and if the geography could be broken down into county level or quarter sections. In response staff highlighted the following; the report used the most detailed data on industry and employment to create the cluster definitions, future iterations will allow an opportunity to use revised employment data, but it is important to note that the purpose of this analysis is to lay a foundation for future cluster analysis in the region and finally data is available at the county level and there will be county profiles in the technical document which is available upon request. The committee asked for a detailed explanation of the methodology, a revision to some of the next step actions and a projected timeline for release. A draft of the snapshot with all amendments will be available for the next meeting.

6.2 The white paper on economic development incentives, which reviews the provision of economic incentives by government agencies and reviews current incentive programs in the region was discussed.

Charles Perkins began the discussion by suggesting that such reports should use local case studies as examples. Chris Aiston's comments were that the paper was academic in detail with information and data that was out of date. JoAnn Eckman said the report did not present incentives as a tool and suggested the report should frame the discussion as such. Thomas Gary added that it is important to get a sense of how counties use incentives in order to better benchmark where the region is and where it could go given new data on the use of incentives. Bob Gleeson remarked that the idea of writing a report about incentives is a good first step but without authoritative cost benefit analysis and data that is comparable to the current state of incentives in Illinois and region it adds no value. Overall John Greuling concluded the discussion by agreeing with all that was said and highlighted the fact that the report does not reflect what is actually occurring in the business world and recommended that committee members volunteer to work with staff to develop a paper that would be relevant to the region. John Schneider, Lori Clark, Thomas Gary, Randy Haas, Tracey Bosman, Chris Aiston, David Young, and JoAnn Eckmann offered to assist.

8.0 Public Comment

Paul Heltne made brief comments on the new version of Development of Regional Importance (DRI). He said the thresholds were so high that there would be very few to no development that would qualify as a DRI. He further noted that the thresholds did not include environment or economic development indicators and this perhaps should be considered for inclusion.

9.0 Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:45am.

The next meeting of the Economic and Community Development working committee will be held on **Tuesday March 24, 2009 at 9:00am** in the CMAP offices.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Rademacher
Staff Liaison

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