



Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

Agenda Item No. 14.0

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MEMORANDUM

To: CMAP Board and MPO Policy Committee

From: CMAP Staff

Date: October 5, 2011

Re: Illinois General Assembly Veto Session

The Illinois General Assembly will reconvene October 25-27, for the first veto session. The General Assembly will address various vetoes – item, amendatory, and reduction – acted on by the Governor since May. The Governor Total Vetoes eight bills, Item/Reduction Vetoes five budget-related bills, and Amendatory Vetoes 17 bills.* CMAP tracked a handful of these bills, as shown below. Staff will continue to monitor the final outcome of the bills and other relevant legislation during veto session days.

CMAP tracked the following bills that were vetoed by the Governor.

HB 1966 – CMAP NEUTRAL. Creates the Illinois and Midwest High-Speed Rail Commission Act. Contains provisions concerning the composition of the Illinois and Midwest High-Speed Rail Commission. Provides the Commission must prepare and issue a report recommending the best governmental structure for a public-private partnership to design, build, operate, maintain, and finance a high-speed rail system for the State. **TOTAL VETO.**

The Governor vetoed this bill because the creation of this new commission duplicates the work of the 220 HSR Advisory Commission he appointed in June.

SB 91 – CMAP NEUTRAL. Amends the Fox Waterway Agency Act. Modifies the definition of "Waterway" to include the term "Chain of Lakes Fox River Recreational Waterway" and all streams, bayous, sloughs, backwaters, side channels, improved channels, and submerged lands or parts thereof which lie within the territory of the Fox Waterway Agency. Provides that all waters within the waterway are open to the public for navigation and fishing. **TOTAL VETO.**

The Governor vetoed this bill at the request of sponsor Sen. Pamela Althoff (R-Crystal Lake) because it fails to adequately protect the rights of private property owners.

SB 1652 – CMAP NEUTRAL. Amends the Public Utility Act and creates the Infrastructure Modernization Act to modernize the existing electric grid and meter system, and to modify the method used to determine electricity rates in Illinois. The bill would impact customers of ComEd, Ameren, People's Gas, North Shore Gas, and Nicor Gas, and would provide a

October 5, 2011

Page 2

framework for a long-term infrastructure investment program made by utilities. **TOTAL VETO.**

The Governor vetoed this bill because it would force consumers to pay billions in rate hikes and reduce the state's ability to enforce performance standards for utilities.

HB 2270 – CMAP NEUTRAL. Amends the Toll Highway Act. Provides that the Toll Highway Authority may exercise any powers it has under the Toll Highway Act on the effective date of the amendatory Act to construct new railroad tracks. Provides that the Authority may charge an access fee to any passenger or freight rail operator who wishes to use tracks which the Authority has constructed using powers granted under the amendatory Act. Provides that moneys in the Road Fund may not be used to implement the new provisions. Effective immediately. **AMENDATORY VETO.**

The Governor added language requiring an approval process through his office for the design and construction of projects entered into by the Illinois Tollway.

**Definitions for Veto Actions*

AMENDATORY VETO – The Governor returns the bill to the General Assembly with specific recommendations for change. The General Assembly may do nothing and the bill dies, the General Assembly may override the veto, or the General Assembly may accept the Governor's proposed changes.

ITEM VETO – The Governor vetoes an item in an appropriation bill. The General Assembly may do nothing and the item dies, or the General Assembly may override the item veto. In either event, the remainder of the bill becomes law.

REDUCTION VETO – The Governor reduces the amount of an item of an appropriation bill. The General Assembly may do nothing and the reduction stands, or the General Assembly may restore the item to its original amount. In either event, the remainder of the bill becomes law.

TOTAL VETO – The Governor vetoes the bill in its entirety. The General Assembly may do nothing and the bill dies, or the General Assembly may override the total veto.

ACTION REQUESTED: Discussion

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