



Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

Agenda Item No. 4.3

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MEMORANDUM

To: CMAP Board

From: Bob Dean, Deputy Executive Director for Local Planning

Date: June 1, 2011

Re: DCEO "Ike" Planning Program

CMAP intends to submit an application to the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) for funding available through the Ike Planning Program. This funding source is meant to support long-range planning that is comprehensive in nature, assists communities to recover from past disasters, and avoids future disasters. CMAP will be requesting that DCEO sub-allocate a portion of the total funding amount to be used in the northeastern Illinois region for a grant program directed to local governments administered by CMAP in a similar manner to the Community Planning Program. A longer summary of the proposal is attached to this memo.

While the proposed role for CMAP would create potentially burdensome administrative responsibilities for the agency, it would also bring substantial planning resources to the region, helping to directly implement a recommendation in GO TO 2040 related to funding local planning. The plan recommends that the RTA and CMAP create a coordinated funding program; this has been done with the Community Planning Program. (GO TO 2040 also recommends that IDOT contribute funds to this coordinated funding program but this has not yet occurred.) Beyond these transportation sources, the plan recommends that "[t]he funding program should be further supplemented by funds from federal and state economic development, environmental or housing agencies, such as DCEO..." Therefore, CMAP's application for Ike Planning Program funds directly supports the plan's implementation. Even if the application is unsuccessful, if it spurs DCEO to begin allocating planning resources to communities in the region by another means, it will have accomplished its goal.

In the next several weeks, CMAP intends to discuss this potential application with many of its partners, including counties, municipalities, Councils of Government, and nonprofit groups. The Local Coordinating Committee will be asked to discuss potential strategies to gain regional support from CMAP's partners for the application to DCEO.

ACTION REQUESTED: Discussion.

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CMAP PROPOSAL FOR IKE PLANNING PROGRAM: LOCAL GRANT PROGRAM FOR THE CHICAGO REGION

Summary

The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) proposes to apply for \$4 million in planning funding through the Illinois Disaster Recovery (“IKE”) Planning Program administered by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO). The purpose of this program is to support long-range planning that is comprehensive in nature, assists communities to recover from past disasters, and avoids future disasters. This program was spurred by the flooding that occurred across the state due to heavy rains associated with Hurricane Ike in 2008.

In partnership with a broad regional consortium of governments and nongovernmental organizations, CMAP proposes to create a well-structured, phased grant program, targeted to local governments in the region, for comprehensive planning that addresses community redevelopment and hazard mitigation. The result of the local grant program will be a series of local projects that support the goals of the IKE Planning Program and are consistent with the Chicago region’s long-range comprehensive plan, GO TO 2040.

The IKE Planning Program

In 2008 the United States Congress appropriated \$6.5 billion through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program for “necessary expenses related to disaster relief, long-term recovery, and restoration of infrastructure, housing, and economic revitalization in areas affected by hurricanes, floods, and other natural disasters occurring during 2008 for which the President declared a major disaster.”

The State of Illinois was awarded nearly \$170 million in February 2010 to pursue the IKE Disaster Recovery Program. Of this amount, nearly \$17 million has been allocated for comprehensive planning on a local or regional basis in order to guide long term recovery and redevelopment through the IKE Planning Program. These planning funds are the focus of CMAP’s proposal, and are meant to be used for planning activities, rather than engineering or construction.

Communities that fall in Illinois counties that were declared under one of three 2008 FEMA declarations are eligible to apply for CDBG IKE Program funding. Within the CMAP region, these include: Cook, DuPage, Kane, Kendall, Lake, and Will counties.

The IKE Planning Program and GO TO 2040

CMAP adopted GO TO 2040, the long-range comprehensive plan for the Chicago metropolitan region, in October 2010. This plan links transportation, land use, housing, economic growth, the natural environment, and human and community development, with the overarching goals of improving livability and bringing about sustainable prosperity, seeking to build on the region’s many assets and also address the challenges it faces in the short and long terms.

There are clear parallels between the recommendations of GO TO 2040 and the objectives of the IKE Planning Program. The stated funding priority for the IKE Planning Program is for “comprehensive planning on a local or regional basis in order to guide long term recovery and redevelopment.” In addition, recipients of CDBG Disaster Recovery funding are required to meet at least one of the following three national objectives: “Principally benefit low-and-moderate income persons”; “Aid in the prevention or elimination of slums and blight”; or “Meet community development needs having a particular urgency because existing conditions pose a serious and immediate threat to the health or welfare of the community where other financial resources are not available.” GO TO 2040 addresses these and other inter-related objectives of the IKE Planning Program.

Proposal

CMAP requests that DCEO devote \$4 million in funding from the IKE Planning Program to a grant program geared toward local governments in the Chicago region and administered by CMAP and its partners. The grants will support local planning projects that incorporate comprehensive planning and hazard mitigation, particularly related to stormwater management, flood prevention, and the use of green infrastructure for these purposes. Projects that address these issues in a long-range, comprehensive context are most relevant. Also, the local grant program will prioritize inter-jurisdictional applications in which multiple communities (particularly those in the same watershed) coordinate on a single application.

CMAP will use a competitive application process to select local projects to fund through the grant program. Interested local governments will respond to a call for projects released by CMAP; the call for projects will be coordinated with the call for projects for CMAP’s other grant and technical assistance programs. CMAP and its partners will evaluate these applications using set criteria based on those described in the IKE Planning Program application, and develop recommendations for funding based on the performance of projects against these criteria.

The proposed local grant program achieves the goals of the IKE Planning Program and advances the implementation of GO TO 2040, leveraging considerable federal and state investment—including USDOT, HUD, USEPA, IDOT, and IEPA funding—that is already devoted to complementary activities managed by CMAP, including its Local Technical Assistance program, Community Planning Program (with the RTA), and watershed planning programs.

Timing and Contact Information

The IKE Planning Program application will be submitted by CMAP to DCEO in late June. Groups interested in supporting this application should contact Stephen Ostrander at CMAP at 312-386-8696 or sostrander@cmapp.illinois.gov to discuss potential roles by June 17.

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