



Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

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Human Services Committee Minutes from Monday October 20th, 2008

In Attendance:

Members:

Phil Smith

Walt Meyers

Tammy Wierciak

Holly Smith

Sheri Cohen

Bob Gleeson

Lynn O'Shea

Kemberly Dailey Johnson

Lorrie Lynn

Janelle Brown

Jacky Grimshaw

Janna Stansell

DuPage County Community Services

Northeast Illinois Area on Aging

Metropolitan Mayors Caucus/Council of Mayors

Kane/Kendall Council of Mayors

Chicago Department of Public Health

Northern Illinois University

Association for Individual Development

Pioneer Center

United Way of Metro Chicago

RTA

Center for Neighborhood Technology

Health and Medicine Policy Research Group

Guest:

Mike Sullivan

Joe Voccia

Shaan Trotter

Peter Kamps

Lillian Lahr

Greg Pullman

Virginia Chandler

John Lavin

Kane/Kendall Council of Mayors

RTA

Northwestern University

Chicago Department of Human Services

CTA

Chicago Lighthouse for the Blind

Metra

Age Options

CMAP Staff:

Russell Pietrowiak

Patricia Berry

Ylda Pineyro

CMAP Staff

CMAP Staff

CMAP Staff

1.0 Introductions

Those in attendance introduced themselves

2.0 Approval of August minutes.

The minutes for the August meeting were approved.

3.0 Comments from the Chair or Vice Chair

Phil Smith stated that at the last planning committee meeting they approved the indicators, in their present form that would be used as part of the Go To 2040 planning process. They also heard a presentation regarding the cluster analysis of job within the region.

Holly Smith attended 3 programming committee meetings since the Human Services committee last met. At the first meeting she shared with the programming committee the questions and concerns that were raised regarding the Developments of Regional Importance (DRI) by the Human Service Committee. At the next meeting the committee released a draft of the DRI process for public comment. At the last meeting the committee approved the FY09 CMAQ program and heard a presentation regarding various RTA funding programs, including JARC and New Freedom.

4.0 Human Services Updates

4.1 JARC and New Freedom Program Discussion

4.1.1 FY08 JARC & New Freedom Program of Projects (RTA Staff)
RTA staff presented the FY08 JARC and New Freedom program of projects to the Human Services Committee. In general about \$5.9 million was available for JARC and New Freedom projects. Janelle Brown of the RTA then provided a brief overview of the JARC and New Freedom projects Information regarding individual projects can be found at <http://jarcnf.rtachicago.com/>. Greg Pullman asked what type of assurances have the RTA been given that a particular route will stay operating for the duration of the grant. The RTA stated that the funds are for the expansion of a route and not a new route (specific reference was given to the #92 Foster bus route). If the route was canceled then the money would not be spent since the grant provides money is for reimbursable expenses. It was also mentioned that some New Freedom projects received 2 years worth of funding. The RTA also mentioned that Will County will be receiving a Community Planning grant to conduct a coordinated paratransit study. Finally Holly Smith stated the timing of which committees the RTA presents to could be improved as the programming committee received an RTA presentation prior to the Human Services committee. It was stated that this years process should be an anomaly due to scheduling constraints and that the normal process would have the Human Services committee being presented with JARC and New Freedom projects prior to having them be presented to the programming committee.

4.1.2 Discussion of JARC/NF Selection Criteria (RTA Staff)
Janelle Brown, from the RTA provided an overview of the criteria used to select projects and highlight changes that RTA staff is recommending. It was also stated that reviewing the selection criteria was something that is

done by the Human Services committee after the program of projects has been presented. Specific criteria changes were then discussed, such as questions 9 and 18. It was mentioned that at this time and at the next meeting input on proposed criteria questions would be gathered. The proposed criteria question changes would then be submitted to the RTA board for approval, probably in January 2009. Committee members along with audience members then asked a few questions regarding the proposed changes. Specifically the RTA was asked about question 18 and its affect on rewarding projects that also try to reach out to seniors. The RTA stated that the purpose was to give extra value to those projects that go beyond providing services only to either individuals with disabilities or low incomes, but reward those that actually demonstrate that they have a plan or strategy that will also target seniors. Another question asked if the same type of "bonus" points would apply to low income individuals. It was stated that JARC is in part designed to provide service for low-income individuals, thus service to this population would not be over and above what is required as is the case with seniors. It was also pointed out that seniors are allowed to ride fixed route service for free, but individuals with a disability need to be low income to ride for free. The RTA pointed out that the goal is to have a fair, consistent, and transparent process. Walt Meyers asked if free rides would have an impact on the transit system. The RTA stated that it was to early to tell what impacts there might be and that the RTA Board is very interested in founding this out too. It was also mentioned that free rides for seniors and the disabled can create cost savings and burdens. Fixed route expenditures will undoubtedly increase while paratransit cost might decrease, as some disabled riders switch to free fixed route service. However some of the subsidies that the State of Illinois typically provided were eliminated by the Governor in the last budget. It was suggested that a topic for future discussion is looking at the long-term sustainability and viability of paratransit and demand responsive services in the region. It was stated that Pace would be contacted to see if they could have this type of discussion with the Human Services Committee. Phil Smith asked if continuing projects and new projects are considered equally. The RTA stated that they are equally evaluated and that they both have the same amount of total points available to them. The RTA also emphasized that the FY09 JARC and New Freedom programs are currently the last that are authorized under SAFETY-LU, which expires October 31st, 2009. Any calls for projects after FY09 will be dependant on either an extension of SAFETY-LU or the authorization of a new federal transportation bill. Greg Pullman then asked if projects have to show if they are sustainable after their grant expires. The RTA stated that applicants are asked if they will continue service after the grant has expired. Walt Meyers asked if multi-year projects are reviewed annually before a 2nd or 3rd year of funding is given out. The RTA stated that they are. Metra stated that as ridership grows fares can sometimes be used to replace the grant money, since operating cost are more or less fixed.

However the RTA pointed out that demand responsive trips generally will increase operating cost thus fares will not always be able to replace grant money. Phil Smith stated that typically service gets reduced, fares are increased, or both. Lynn O'Shea stated that she had hoped that the new suburban mobility fund would be a revenue stream to help with the sustainability of demand responsive service but that Pace is using these funds to cover a budget short fall for the year.

4.2 211 Update

The 211 working group met in August and September and would be meeting after the Human Services committee meeting today. At this time there is a general agreement that the United Way of America will conduct a statewide 211 planning process. CMAP is contributing to this effort by providing the share of the total cost relative to the region's share of the state population (about 60% of the cost). At this time CMAP is finishing a report on the current status of 211 in Illinois and the country that can be used both to inform people about the issue and to highlight various approaches to 211. This report will be presented at a future meeting. Finally there are 3 pilot 211 projects in Illinois that should come on line in November. The pilots are scheduled to run for 1 year with an option for a second year. The goal is to have the statewide planning process and any legislation that is required completed by the time that the pilots are finished so that there can be a transition into a statewide 211 system.

4.3 ADA Updates

Russell Pietrowiak from CMAP briefed the committee on Pace's ADA "Blue Ribbon" committee activities. It was stated that Pace has put together a committee comprised primarily of ADA paratransit users and advocates to examine the current paratransit system, hear testimony, and make recommendations to Pace's board in December. The RTA is also examining Pace's ADA paratransit. It was also reported that for the next 5 years the City will spend \$50,000,000 (\$10,000,000 per year) in new money to repair and replace curb ramps and sidewalks in high traffic areas which are not on the City's schedule for repair or replacement. The City will also continue to spend approximately eighteen million dollars (\$18,000,000) each year installing curb ramps and sidewalks as a part of the City's annual resurfacing work.

5.0 GoTo 2040 Plan Development

5.1 CMAP/Chicago Community Trust Partnership

A general update on the activities related CMAP's partnership with the Chicago Community Trust was given. It was also pointed out that the lead agencies will be presenting their findings/recommendations to the Human Services committee sometime in the spring of 2009. The Human Services committee will then have the opportunity to provide comments on this

work. In addition some of the lead agencies have expressed a desire to meet with the Human Services committee to discuss their work and gather input prior to presenting their finished products. At the next meeting this topic will be discussed in more depth.

5.2 Go To 2040 Partnership

Ylda Pineyro from CMAP gave a brief presentation regarding CMAP's partnership program. In sum everyone is encouraged to become a CMAP partner. It was agreed that an email would be sent that would include a link to the partnership registration so that anyone that wanted to could sign up to be a CMAP partner.

6.0 Other

- 6.1** Janna Stansell invited everyone to attend the Healthcare Safety-net presummit that will take place on Nov. 13th at CMAP.
- 6.2** Other announcements: Phil Smith announced that the DuPage Federation on Human Services has posted a position for a Human Services Planner. Anyone that is interested should contact the Federation.

7.0 Next Meeting (November 10th at 10:00am)

8.0 Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.