

**Draft Meeting Notes  
Bicycle and Pedestrian Task Force**

**MEETING DATE:** 11/14/07

**MEETING LOCATION:** CMAP Offices

**CALLED TO ORDER:** 2:00 pm

**ATTENDANCE:**

(Task Force Members)

Tom Rickert, Chair

Jessica Thompson (for Ed Barsotti), League of Illinois Bicyclists

Bruce Christensen, Lake County

Deborah Fagan, DuPage County

Richard Bascomb, Village of Schaumburg

Dave Longo, IDNR

Andrea Hoyt, DuPage County Forest Preserve

Mark Minor, Metra

Barbara Moore, Local communities (Village of Northfield)

Dave Kirchner (for Allan Mellis), Forest Preserve District of Cook County

Chalen Hunter, Council of Mayors

Nick Jackson (for Randy Neufeld), Chicagoland Bicycle Federation

Les Nunes, IDOT-OPP

Keith Privett, Chicago Department of Transportation

Craig Williams, T.Y. Lin Intl.

(Staff)

Lori Heringa, CMAP

Tom Murtha, CMAP

John O'Neal, CMAP

(Others)

Chris DiPalma, FHWA

Bev Moore, Illinois Trails Conservancy

John LaPlante, T.Y. Lin Intl.

Karen Fonte, Will County Forest Preserve

Dennis Sandquist, Lake County Planning Department

Sean Von Bergen, Village of Arlington Heights

Sam Mead, IDOT-D1

Randy Warren, Chicagoland Bicycle Federation

Laura Barghusen, Openlands

Joyce O'Keefe, Openlands

W.B. Miller

**1.0 Introductions:** Attendees introduced themselves

**2.0 Approval of the Minutes:** Motion was made and seconded for approval of the meeting notes. The motion was unanimously approved.

**3.0 Pedestrian and Bicycle Project Programming:**

**3.1 Rescissions**

Mr. Murtha gave a brief update on rescissions, stating that the current federal transportation appropriations bill would result in \$3.2B of rescissions nationally in FY08, of which \$120M would be in Illinois. He added there is a planned \$8.5B rescission scheduled for September, 2009, which might reduce Illinois resources by more than \$300M. He concluded that the outlook for funding of bicycle and pedestrian projects – and transportation generally – is grim, and added that for this reason the Bike-Ped Task Force and implementing agencies need to discuss alternative funding processes and sources. Mr. Nunes verified the upcoming rescissions and the expected amounts, stating that IDOT's procedures will ensure fair apportionment of program cuts.

**3.2 Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Program**

Mr. Murtha gave a brief update on the CMAQ program, stating that the FY08 program had been posted for public comment and was subsequently approved by the MPO Policy Committee at its October meeting. He added that CMAP had received federal determination of projects' eligibility and intended to notify sponsors of project eligibility and funding availability very shortly.

He concluded by highlighting projects in the approved FY 2008 program, including additional funding for the Calumet-Sag Trail and initial funding for the Bloomingdale Trail.

**3.3 Project Update**

Mr. Rickert asked for any information from sponsors/implementers on any projects that are making notable progress, or lack thereof, or any problems that staff should be aware of.

Ms. Hoyt informed the Task Force of recent progress on the Salt Creek and Centennial Trails. Mr. Privett highlighted the Valley Line Trail. Mr. Longo stated that work on the Route 66 Concept Plan was proceeding according to schedule. Mr. Christensen mentioned several projects currently underway in Lake County, including an underpass beneath I-94. Ms. Thompson introduced herself and informed the Task Force of LIB's work on the Bike Map of Aurora and the Bike to Metra brochure. Ms. Fonte spoke briefly about ongoing projects in Will County.

**4.0 Regional and Subregional Bikeway Planning**

Mr. Murtha stated that three sub-regional Councils of Mayors had recently completed updates to their bikeways plans – the Northwest Municipal Conference (North Shore and Northwest Councils of Mayors), Kane-Kendall Counties, and McHenry County.

Mr. Murtha added that two more subregional bikeways plans should be completed by December 2007 – the South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association and the West

Central Council of Mayors. In addition, DuPage County's bikeways update plan should be completed by June 2008.

#### **4.1 Northeastern Illinois Greenways and Trails Plan: Regional Trails Update**

Mr. Murtha introduced Lori Heringa, who then informed the Task Force regarding the work to update the regional Greenways and Trails Plan. Ms. Heringa gave a brief introduction to the Greenways and Trails Plan, discussing its origin and history, including its funding by IDNR. Ms. Heringa stated that the Plan was focused on "green corridors", which are important for reasons of recreation, habitat and biodiversity, and water quality. She added that trails are an important element of the plan for purposes of both recreation and transportation. Ms. Heringa stressed that the Greenways and Trails Plan was a "vision" document and that its focus and time-frame was long-term. Ms. Heringa emphasized the regional nature of the plan and its trails element. She defined the 'regional trails' of the Greenways and Trails Plan as multi-use, open to the public, usually (though not always) multi-jurisdictional, and mostly (though again, not always) off-road paths – the exception to the latter being short on-road connections.

Ms. Heringa stated that the work of updating the trails element of the Greenways and Trails Plan had been dovetailed with work of CMAP staff to update the Bicycle Inventory System (BIS). Ms. Heringa then described the exercise in which the Task Force would now be participating. She gave instructions and directed the Task Force to a handout outlining the exercise and the input CMAP was requesting.

Mr. Westfall stated that IDNR hoped that some prioritization of trail projects would result from the update, since funding for projects was limited. He added that in his opinion too extensive a network of potential regional trails may 'water down' the ability of specific projects to obtain funding. Mr. Sandquist responded that the Greenways and Trails Plan is however a "vision" plan and so should reflect the long term vision rather than short-term feasibility. Mr. LaPlante stated that one approach would be to take "low hanging fruit" as high priority projects, using connections to existing facilities and/or usage along nearby facilities or in the area of a proposed facility as guides. Ms. O'Keefe stated that the small gaps in important existing facilities should be high priority.

Ms. Heringa added that any notes participants may provide regarding names and naming conventions of trails would also be helpful.

Mr. Murtha summarized some of general, quantitative statistics comparing the 1997 and draft 2007 versions of the Regional Greenways and Trails Plan, noting that the original 1997 plan was 2000 miles, of which 500 were complete at the time of the adoption. The 2007 draft is 2500 miles, of which about 1000 are complete. He stated that most of the new mileage being added to the plan is in Kendall County (not in the original plan) and in the City of Chicago, which has developed its own trails plan with which the regional plan will be consistent.

At this point, participants of the Task Force meeting worked at individual tables where maps of the seven counties, with both the 1997 trails from the Greenways and Trails plan and the 2007 updated trail alignments, were shown. Participants were asked to mark directly on the maps alignments which should be added, or taken away, as well as to circle highest priority

projects or corridors, and to make any notes they wished. They were also asked to put their names and affiliations beside any edits they made.

## **5.0 Policy Planning**

### **5.1 Soles and Spokes Plan**

Mr. Murtha announced that the next Soles and Spokes Steering Committee meeting – after several months’ hiatus – will take place Wednesday, December 5, at 2 PM.

### **5.2 Pedestrian Safety Initiative**

Mr. Murtha gave the Task Force a brief update on the Pedestrian Safety Initiative, stating that workshops in the four communities were currently being planned for December of this year. He added that discussions with IDOT, in conjunction with SB 314 (“Complete Streets”), in order to consider how accommodation of pedestrians and bicyclists can best be accomplished in roadway construction/reconstruction projects, were being planned. He stated that, in connection with this task, there would be a meeting at CMAP with IDOT Secretary, Milt Sees, on November 29, 2007.

### **9.0 Other Business**

Mr. Westfall announced that the Mid America Trails & Greenways Conference was taking place here in Chicago on December 9-12. He stated that participants would be working to help develop inter-state trail connections in the Midwest.

## **10.0 Public Comment**

**11.0 Next Meeting:** Next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, January 16, 2007 at 2:00 pm.

**Adjournment:** 3:45 pm