



Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

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Freight Committee Meeting Minutes

December 3, 2009

Offices of the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP)
DuPage County Conference Room
Suite 800, 233 S. Wacker Drive, Chicago, Illinois

Committee Members: George Billows-Illinois Trucking Association (Co-Chairman), Tom Zapler, UPRR (Co-Chairman), David Chandler-CNT, Gregory Dreyer-Illinois Tollway, Jeff Harris - NS/CTCO, Rob Hoffman, Lee Hutchins-AECOM, Kazuya Kawamura-UIC, Jim LaBelle-Chicago Metropolis 2020, Steve Lazarra-Will County Land Use Dept, Dean Mentjes-FHWA, Floyd Miras-USDOT-Maritime Admin, Laurence Rohter-IIT, Larry Wilson-IDOT

Absent: Reggie Greenwood-SSMMA, David Grewe-CTCO, Patti Killinger-Will County, Libby Ogard-Prime Focus, Earl Wacker-Consultant, Norm West-USEPA

Staff Present: Doug Ferguson, Tom Murtha

Others Present: Kristen Bennett-Metro Strategies, Bernardo Bustamante-FHWA, Paul Colgan, Catherine Kannenberg – Metra, Scott Kuhner – CSX/CTCO, Jim Messmore – Hanson, Vicky Smith – Southwest Council of Mayors, Dan Tempesta – Cambridge Systematics, , Monique Urban-Cambridge Systematics, Audrey Wennink-Cambridge Systematics, Tammy Wierciak-WCMC, Erika Witzke-Cambridge Systematics

1.0 Call to Order

Co-chair George Billows called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

2.0 Introductions

Committee members and other attendees introduced themselves.

3.0 Agenda Changes and Announcements

Mr. Zapler announced the grand opening of the Metra Market in the lower level of the Ogilvie Station. Mr. Billows announced that the agenda was full. The committee would go as far through the agenda as possible, but any remaining items would move to the next meeting.

4.0 Approval of Minutes – November 16, 2009

A motion to approve the minutes of the November meeting, with no revisions, was made and seconded. With all in favor, the motion carried.

5.0 Regional Freight System Planning Recommendations

Ms. Witzke from Cambridge Systematics – after introducing her colleagues on the project – presented an overview of the freight planning recommendations efforts thus far. She noted that the goal of the project was to propose a set of planning recommendations for the freight system to be considered within the GO TO 2040 process, and to estimate the effects of such recommendations, including any economic benefits. Project phases included developing a freight planning framework; data and forecasting; performance, policy, and investment analysis; and recommendations, with continuous public outreach.

Ms. Witzke then told the Committee that the focus of the meeting would be on Transearch data analysis, to be presented by Monique Urban, and on the policy and project recommendations.

Transearch Data Analysis

Ms. Urban reviewed the Transearch data being used in the project's analysis procedures. She noted that we have 2007 estimates and 2040 forecasts to use. The data, provided by Global Insight, includes external to external, internal to internal, and internal-external trips. Ms. Urban described the sketch planning analysis used by Cambridge in reviewing the data, which included an assignment of trucks flows to a generalized regional highway network.

Ms. Urban described some of the procedures and challenges in the data analysis. Challenges included differing definitions of the Chicago metropolitan area in the Transearch dataset; the level of detail possible in the dataset, versus what is useful for regional modeling; and the development of a highway network.

Ms. Urban continued by describing truck volume growth expected up to 2040, including both productions and attractions. She noted the importance of looking at unusual values, since there may be an analytical flaw that needs to be adjusted or at least understood and considered when using the data. Ms. Urban then presented some of the 2040 forecast volume maps for the region, showing only the regional freeway system.

Finally, she noted that such forecast information would be used as a growth factor on a sub-regional basis against current actual volumes to arrive at future-year truck volume forecasts.

Policy and Project Recommendations

Mr. Murtha noted that staff was seeking committee approval of the proposed recommendations for use in travel demand and economic forecasts. While the committee supported the recommendations, the following concerns were raised in lengthy, spirited discussions:

- First, rail industry representatives requested a meeting to review the rail infrastructure recommendations. Staff and the consultants agreed to such a meeting.
- Second, there was concern among several of the committee members (e.g., Mr. Chandler, Dr. Kawamura, and Mr. LaBelle) that while the policy recommendations were commendable, it was very unclear how they would be modeled. This was a particular concern regarding some land-use related recommendations. Further, there was no set action or mechanism established in the plan to implement the policies, so representing the

recommendations in a travel demand model was problematic. A meeting was suggested to address this issue.

- Finally, questions were raised about the priority and implementation of the policies related to the “economy” theme. Mr. Murtha agreed to work with Mr. LaBelle and Mr. Hoffman to clarify and improve the recommendations in the economy theme.

With these caveats to be addressed in the coming weeks, the Committee approved the proposed freight system projects and policies as suitable for economic and travel demand analysis.

6.0. Deferral of Agenda

The remainder of the agenda was deferred to the next scheduled meeting.

7.0 Adjournment

At 12:00 p.m., a motion to adjourn was made and approved by acclamation.

Respectfully submitted by Tom Murtha