



Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

233 South Wacker Drive
Suite 800
Chicago, Illinois 60606

312 454 0400
www.cmap.illinois.gov

DRAFT
Freight Committee Meeting Minutes
July 18, 2011

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

Committee Members: Randy Thomas – Illinois Trucking Association (Chairman), Wes Lujan – Union Pacific Railroad (Chairman), Joe Alonzo – City of Chicago, Chalen Daigle – McHenry County Council of Mayors, Gregory Dreyer – Illinois Tollway, Kazuya Kawamura – UIC, Pat Killinger – Will County Highway Department, Jim LaBelle – Metropolis Strategies, Floyd Miras – USDOT Maritime Admin, Libby Ogard – Prime Focus, Laurence Rohter – IIT, Herbert Smith – Norfolk Southern, Larry Wilson – IDOT

Absent: David Chandler – CNT, Reggie Greenwood – SSMMA, David Grewe – UP/CTCO, Rob Hoffman – IIT, Lee Hutchins – AECOM, , Steve Lazzara – Will County Land Use Dept., Dean Mentjes – FHWA, Earl Wacker – URS Corporation

Staff Present: Brett Baden, Don Kopec, Tom Murtha, Mike Menelli, Dan Rice, Todd Schmidt

Others Present: Allison Bos – Southwest Council of Mayors, Bruce Carmitchel – IDOT, Chris DiPalma – FHWA, Matt Evans – ILEAS, Catherine Kannenberg – Metra, Marty Mueller – Knight E/A, DeAnna Smith – IDOT, Audrey Wennink – Cambridge Systematics

1.0 Call to Order

Chairmen Randy Thomas and Wes Lujan called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

2.0 Introductions

Committee members and other attendees introduced themselves.

3.0 Agenda Changes and Announcements

Reggie Greenwood announced the initiation of the Logistics Park Calumet study. He also announced the recent completion of a new automated gate for the CN intermodal terminal in Harvey, reducing terminal delay at the facility.

4.0 Approval of Minutes – March

The approval of minutes was deferred to a later meeting.

5.0 Truck Routes

Mr. Murtha reported that the first set of proposed National Highway System intermodal connector modifications has been approved by the MPO Policy Committee and forwarded to IDOT for consideration. Final approval will be by FHWA.

Mr. Murtha also reported that additional NHS connector studies were under way, with turning vehicle counts planned at key locations along truck routes over the summer. He reminded the Committee that several connectors were qualified by closed facilities (Railport, Western Avenue,

IMX). The committee discussed the merits of various counts, including the advantages of manual counts that identified bob-tails separately. In addition, chassis storage was discussed as a factor that will impact counts, but not really indicate the direction of commodity flows.

Mr. Murtha reported that work on additional truck route-functional classification mismatches would continue.

Mr. Alonzo reported that the City of Chicago issued a truck route study RFP. Three proposals were received. Mr. Alonzo state that the scope of work would be shared at a future meeting. He noted that the study was not just intermodal in focus.

6.0 At-Grade Highway-Rail Crossing Delay Measurement

Mr. Murtha noted the handout of working data for grade-crossing delay measurement. CMAP intends that this will inform future prioritization efforts and will be useful in measuring progress in reducing grade-crossing delay.

CMAP will analyze data for all of the public grade crossings in the region. The data in the model will include the number of trains, average speed, and the length of train by segment. CMAP hopes to improve the work of the past by incorporating delay spillback beyond upstream signalized intersections. In addition, CMAP understands that delay estimation work was completed by the rail industry in support of CREATE; CMAP would try to acquire, understand, and apply this work, as appropriate.

Committee members noted industry efforts to reduce delay, including eliminating crossings through closings or separations. Changes in train speed, train lengths, and triple tracking were also noted. That said, Mr. Lujan noted that, west of Elburn, train lengths may exceed 10,000 feet.

Discussion of acquiring gate-down times from in-gate incident recorders was inconclusive. However, the consensus was that if such information was needed, acquiring data would be practical for only a limited number of gates.

7.0 Project and Issue Updates

7.1 CMAQ Programming

Mr. Murtha stated that a draft CMAQ program was available on the CMAP website. It was anticipated that the program would be released by the Transportation Committee in August.

7.2 CMAQ Diesel Emissions Reduction Projects

Mr. Lujan reported that the UP's diesel emissions reduction project, sponsored by the Village of Berkeley, was in the process of obtaining agreement signatures.

The committee discussed future projected diesel emissions reductions, though appropriate technologies had not yet been invented. Mr. Smith noted that fuel savings were a priority for the railroads. Mr. Lujan noted that railroads are looking at diesel alternatives like hydrogen and biodiesel. However, the infrastructure for the conversion to such fuels was not yet available.

Ms. Ogard was concerned that efforts to make the railroads more efficient would have negative, offsetting consequences. She pointed to the chassis issue as a case in point. Mssrs. Lujan and Thomas agreed that this was an issue worth discussing at a future meeting.

7.3 Freight Cluster Drill-Down

Staff indicated that data analysis and stakeholder discussions were continuing. A document draft and an update were expected at the next meeting.

7.4 Freight Snapshot

Mr. Murtha stated that staff was addressing comments about the draft freight snapshot material posted at the Freight Snapshot site, <http://www.cmap.illinois.gov/freight-snapshot>. He stated that comments and corrections are still welcome.

7.5 Chicago Area Waterway System

Floyd Miras reported that a Corps of Engineers study of the waterway was underway and was expected to be complete in 2014. The study will address the carp issue comprehensively. Mr. Miras noted that, at a recent meeting, the idea of a biological separation between the two basins was met with skepticism, since such a solution would likely be costly and cause water quality issues. Mr. Miras noted that a recent analysis of 1.2 million fish in the Lake Calumet area found no invasive Asian carp.

7.6 CMAP Advanced Model Development

Mr. Murtha said that the contract for the meso-scale model was complete. A presentation was expected in September.

7.7 CMAP Senior Freight Planner Recruitment

Mr. Murtha stated that recruitment for this position was continuing.

8.0 Other Business

- Mr. Evans of the Illinois Law Enforcement Alarm System invited participation by Freight Committee stakeholders in discussions regarding radiological detection in the freight system. Steve Lazzara noted that discussions have begun on planning improvements on Illinois 53 in Will County.
- Ms. Wennink noted the call for TIGER-3 projects. It was anticipated that CREATE projects would be among those proposed for funding.
- Ms. Killinger raised an issue with a low railroad viaduct clearance on Brandon Rd. in Will County. Trucks are repeatedly hitting the bridge. Improvements to signs, signals, and/or markings are necessary to keep trucks away from the underpass.
- The Committee thanked Mr. Wilson for the work he finished at IDOT and for his service on the Freight Committee. Mr. Wilson is leaving IDOT.

11.0 2011 Meeting Dates

The following meeting dates were established: September 19 and November 21.

12.0 Adjournment

Mr. Lujan adjourned the meeting at 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Tom Murtha