



DRAFT MINUTES

CMAQ Project Selection Committee

Thursday, December 12, 2013 2:00 p.m.
CMAP Offices

Committee Members Present: Mike Rogers, Chair (IEPA) Chris Schmidt (IDOT), Doug Ferguson (CMAP) Mark Pitstick (RTA), Keith Privett (CDOT), Tom Rickert (Counties), William Rodeghier (Council of Mayors)

Staff Present: Patricia Berry, Teri Dixon, Kama Dobbs, Jesse Elam, Don Kopec

Others Present: Mike Albin, John Donovan, Laura Fedak, Terry Heffron, Valbona Kokoshi, Sharon Lowhim, David Seglin, Lorraine Snorden (via phone), Brian Stepp, Tom Weaver, Barbara Zubek

1.0 Call to Order

Committee Chairman Rogers called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m.

2.0 Agenda Changes and Announcements

None

3.0 Approval of Minutes—October 24, 2013

On a motion by Mr. Ferguson and a second by Mr. Schmidt, the minutes of the October 24, 2013 meeting were approved as presented.

4.0 Program Monitoring

4.1 Programming Project Status Sheets

Ms. Dobbs said that the programming status of active projects report contains projects from the approved FY 2014-2018 program. She provided an overview of layout changes that were made to the deferred line items report and thanked Mr. Pitstick and Mr. Rickert for their feedback, suggestions and assistance with the changes. Mr. Pitstick asked if staff was concerned about the phase 2 engineering, construction and implementation phases for Pace's I-90 Corridor Enhanced Markets project (TIP ID 17-12-0001) all being programmed in FY 2014. Ms. Dobbs stated that based on October status updates, staff was not concerned about Pace's ability to accomplish these phases in FY 2014.

4.2 Obligation Goal

Ms. Dobbs reviewed changes that were made to the obligation summary report, and reported that over \$23 million is available to program in FY 2014 if deferred funds are not reinstated. Reinstating all deferred funds would result in the region being over programmed by more than \$26 million.

4.3 Quarterly Transit Expenditure Update

Ms. Dixon reviewed the 3rd Quarter 2013 Transit Expenditure memo and reported that of the 57 transit projects reported on in the quarter, 9 are complete, but not closed out. Eleven projects have not expended any CMAQ funds and none are stalled.

5.0 Project Changes

5.1 Lake County – Aptakisic Rd Adaptive Traffic Control (TIP ID 10-12-0003) and Gilmer/Hawley/IL176 Adaptive Traffic Control (TIP ID 10-12-0004)

Ms. Dobbs reported that the sponsor requested combining the construction funds for these projects under TIP ID 10-12-0003, and that staff undertook this change as an administrative modification.

5.2 North Chicago – Sheridan Road Multi-Use Path (TIP ID 10-13-0015)

Ms. Dobbs reported that the sponsor requested the transfer of \$1,544 from Phase 2 Engineering to Phase 1 Engineering for ROW plats and legals and that staff undertook this change as an administrative modification.

5.3 IEPA – Chicago Area Diesel Retrofit Program/Chicago Area Clean School Bus Initiative (TIP ID 13-09-0003)

Ms. Dobbs reported that the sponsor requested that leased vehicles be eligible for retrofit, providing that the lease period is at least as long as the period for which the retrofit must be used (currently 5 years) and that staff undertook this change as an administrative modification.

6.0 CMAQ Program Process Evaluation and Transformation

Mr. Elam reviewed the findings of the review of project ranking processes and criteria used by other metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs). He noted that while there is a lot of variety, use of a point system is common. Committee members expressed concern about selecting projects based solely on points, using criteria not related to air quality improvements and congestion reduction, and using criteria that would discourage smaller municipalities from participating in the program. Members also questioned the need for further changes at this time to what seems to be a successful project selection process and noted that selection of projects using a point system may not have any effect on getting projects implemented sooner. Mr. Elam noted that any point system developed would be used to inform the committee recommendations and the selection of projects by the MPO Policy Committee and that a staff recommendation for criteria for a point system would be presented to the committee for discussion.

7.0 MAP-21

Mr. Donovan noted that the interim guidance contained nothing dramatically new. He noted there is emphasis on the cost effectiveness of projects and that funds for the third year of transit operating assistance can be spread over a fourth and fifth year. Mr. Rickert noted that he is concerned that the discussion on the previous item is moving CMAP away from the federal guidance and asked if FHWA had concerns about any regions. Mr. Donovan noted that processes vary throughout the country and that he does not see the guidance detracting from a path of good planning. Mr. Rickert noted there was little clarification on projects that qualify as directly reducing PM_{2.5}. Mr. Ferguson noted that PM_{2.5} is mainly caused by the use of diesel fuel and that large public fleets and private providers tend to be the operators of diesel fueled vehicles and are the generators of measureable PM_{2.5}.

8.0 2014 Meeting Schedule

Ms. Dobbs reported that staff considered the potential conflicts noted by members in October, but based on coordination of these meetings with TIP changes considered by the Transportation Committee and letting dates, it wasn't feasible to make changes. On a motion by Mr. Rickert and a second by Mr. Ferguson, the 2014 meeting schedule was approved.

9.0 Other Business

Mr. Donovan reported that on November 15, FHWA posted four Illinois projects for consideration of Buy America waivers for public comment. He also reported that on November 25, the CDOT waiver for alternative fuel vehicles was partially approved; the content waiver was approved but manufacturing in the US is required. In response to a question from Mr. Rogers, he noted that the comment period technically ends after 15 days, but that comments can be sent until a decision is published.

10.0 Public Comment

None.

11.0 Next Meeting

The committee's next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 13, 2014 at 2:00 p.m.

12.0 Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Rodeghier and a second by Mr. Schmidt, the meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.